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**Survey Results**



# Taylorville 2023 MQPL Survey Results

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# Introduction

Taylorville is a minimum-security male prison within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) that housed 1,067 people on March 27, 2023. The John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA) conducted a modified short [Measuring the Quality of Prison Life](#) (MQPL) survey by providing enough survey packets (consisting of the [MQPL survey](#), an informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and a privileged mail prepaid business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person incarcerated at Taylorville had an opportunity to participate in the voluntary and anonymous survey if they chose to do so. JHA received 250 responses to the MQPL survey from people at Taylorville through June 15, 2023, representing approximately 23% of the static population. JHA visited Taylorville in May 2023. Taylorville had about 100 spaces in a “Voluntary Sex Offender Treatment Program” (VSOTP) and had transitioned to having more than 90% of the population who were registrants, which was an increase from about 50% in 2021.



The MQPL questions are organized by dimensions: harmony, professionalism, security, and well-being & development (descriptions on next page). JHA’s survey also included questions on demographics of respondents as well as some questions JHA had asked in previous JHA surveys. Results are presented in this report first in chart format, followed by table format. Tables are organized in the order that questions appeared on the survey.

# Description of MQPL Dimensions

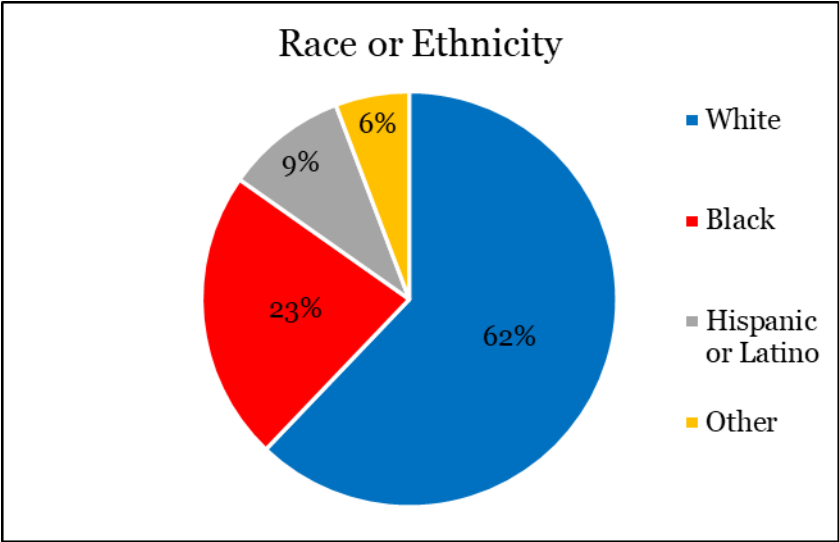
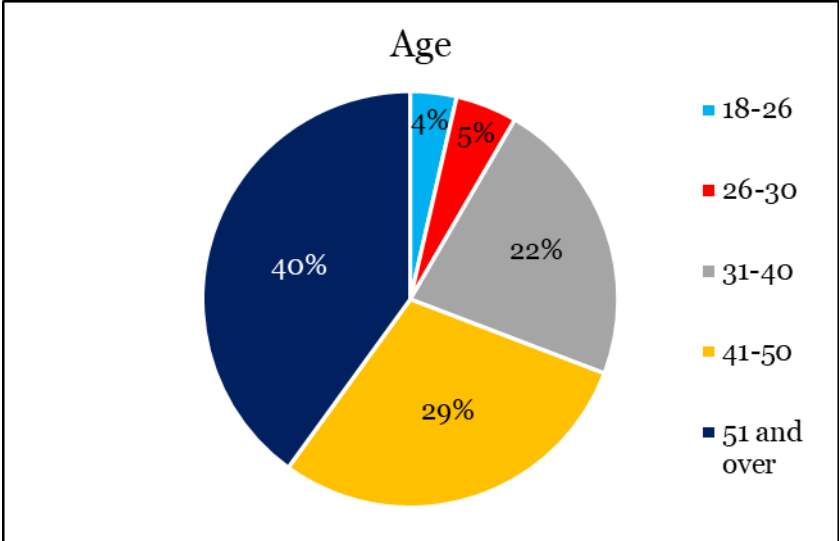
- **Harmony: Questions relating to interpersonal aspects of the prison experience**
  - Respect/courtesy – Positive, respectful, and courteous attitudes towards incarcerated people by staff.
  - Staff-incarcerated people relationships – Trusting, fair and supportive interactions between staff and incarcerated people.
  - Humanity – An environment characterized by kind regard and concern for the person, which recognizes the value and humanity of the individual.
  - Decency – The extent to which staff and the regime are considered reasonable and appropriate.
  - Care for the vulnerable – The care and support provided to incarcerated people at risk of self-harm, suicide, or bullying.
  - Help and assistance – Support and encouragement given to incarcerated people for problems including drugs, healthcare, and progression.
- **Professionalism: Questions relating to how the prison operates**
  - Staff professionalism – Staff confidence and competence in the use of authority.
  - Bureaucratic legitimacy – The transparency and responsiveness of the prison/prison system and its moral recognition of the individual.
  - Fairness – The perceived impartiality, proportionality, and legality of punishments and procedures.
  - Organization and consistency – The clarity, predictability, and reliability of the prison.
- **Security: Questions relating to use of authority and safety**
  - Policing and security – Staff supervision and control of the prison environment.
  - Incarcerated person safety - The feeling of security or protection from harm, threat, or danger.
  - Incarcerated person adaptation – The need or pressure to get involved in trade and allegiances.
  - Drugs and exploitation – The level of drugs, bullying, and victimization in the prison environment.
- **Well-being & Development: Questions relating to welfare and prospects**
  - Personal development – An environment that helps incarcerated people with offending behavior, preparation for release, and the development of their potential.
  - Well-being – Feelings of pain, punishment and tension experienced by incarcerated people.

- **Additional MQPL Questions**

- Decision-making – The extent to which administrators prioritize security concerns over other factors.
- Family contact – An environment that facilitates incarcerated people maintaining relationships with loved ones.

# Charts: Demographic Information of Respondents

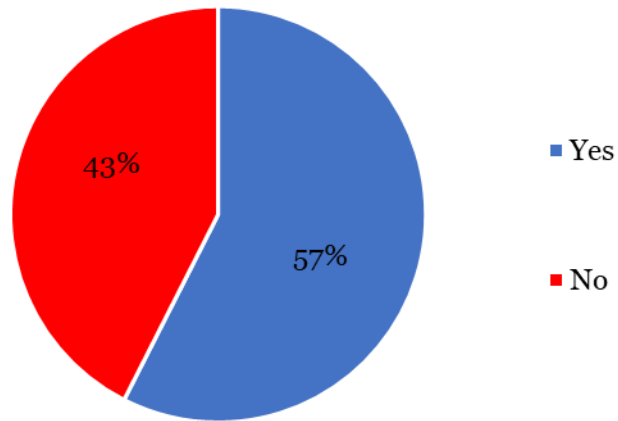
Total respondents = 250<sup>1</sup>



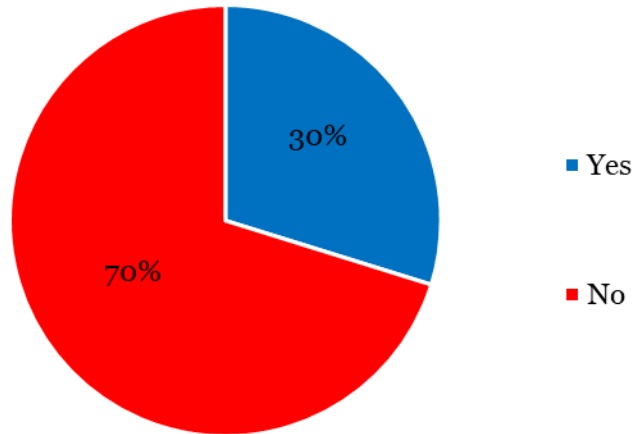
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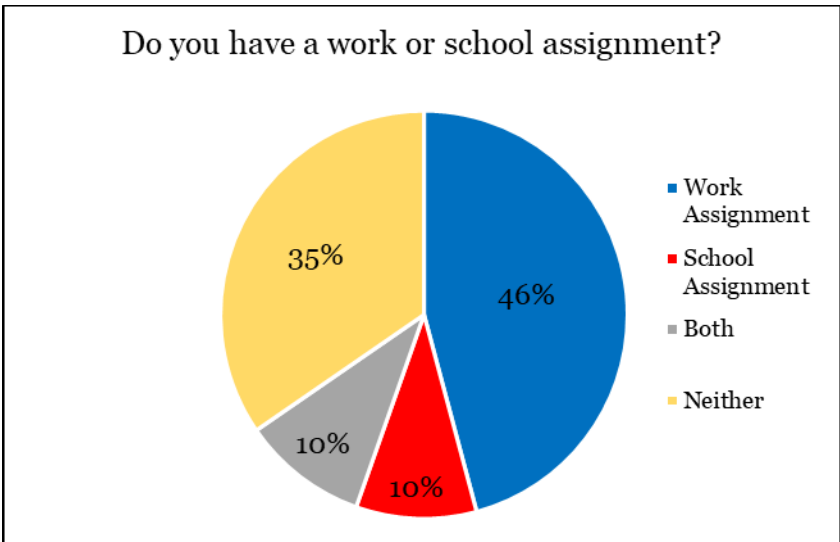
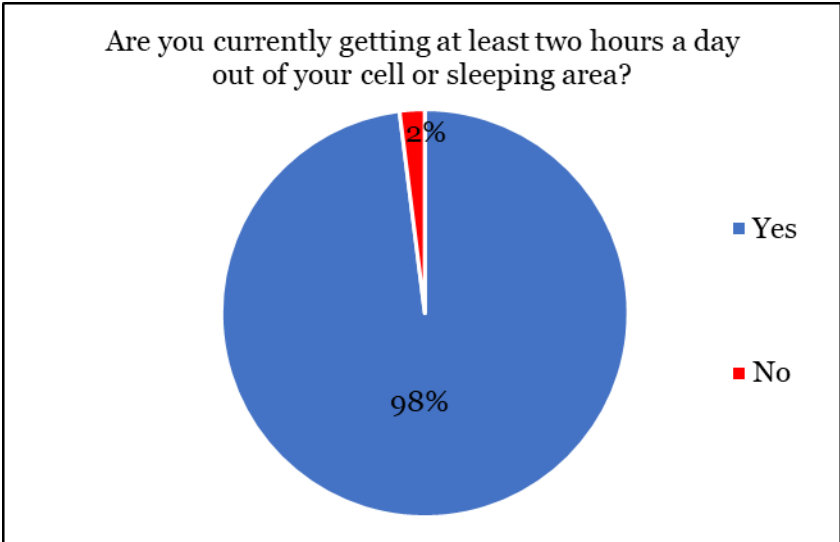
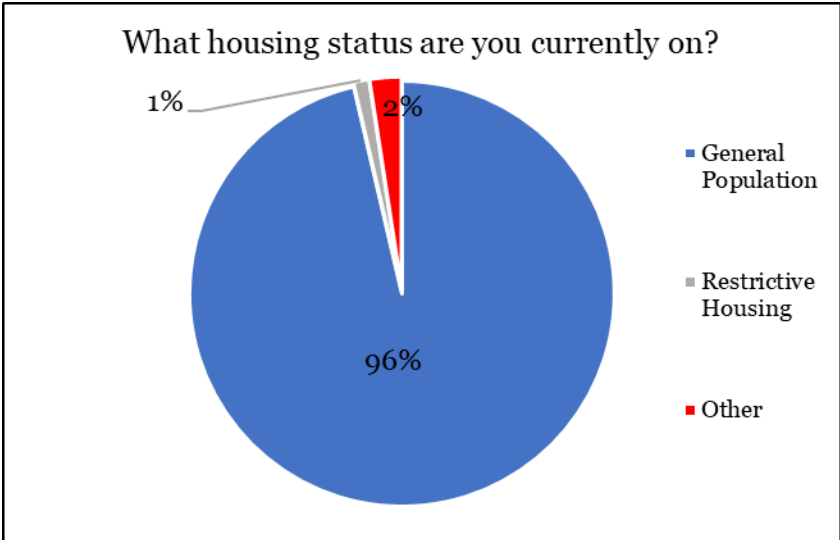
<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%. Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of respondents per question.

Are you within two years of release?



Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?



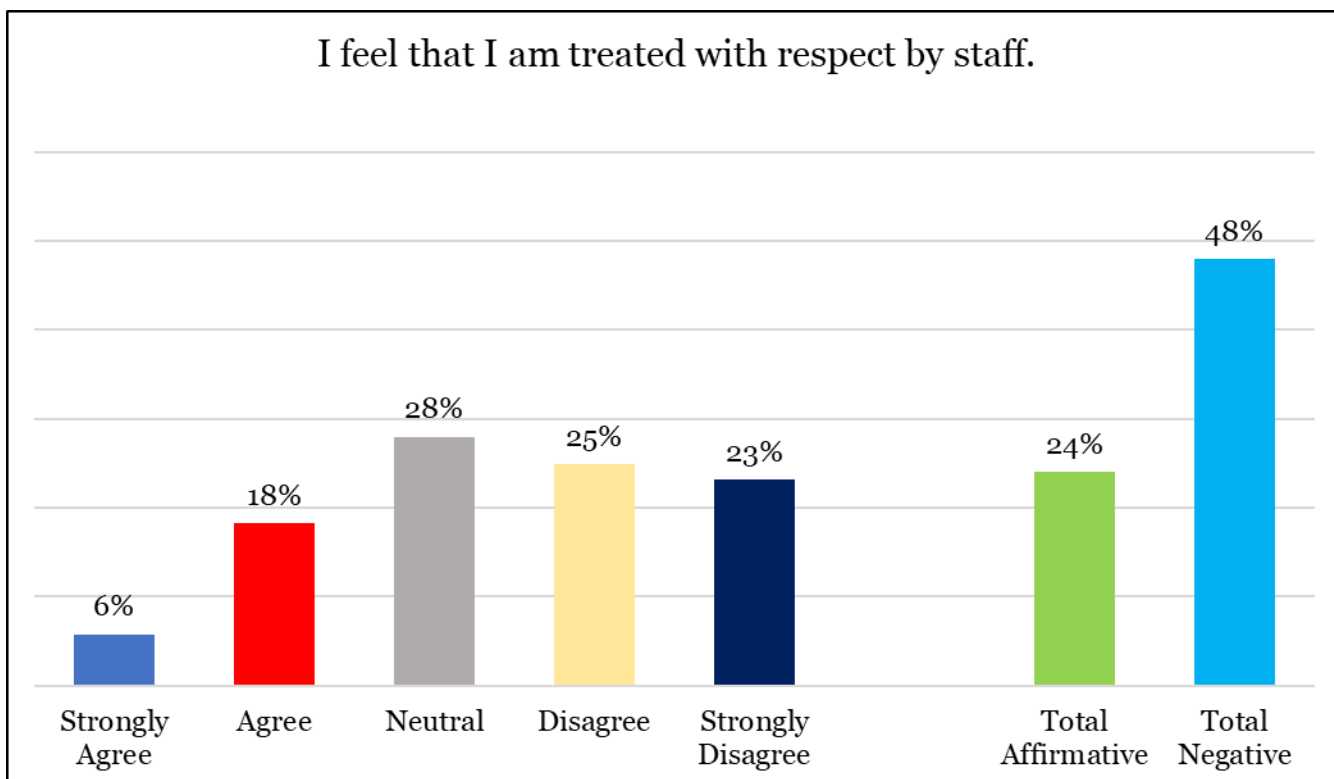




# Charts: MQPL Dimensions<sup>2</sup>

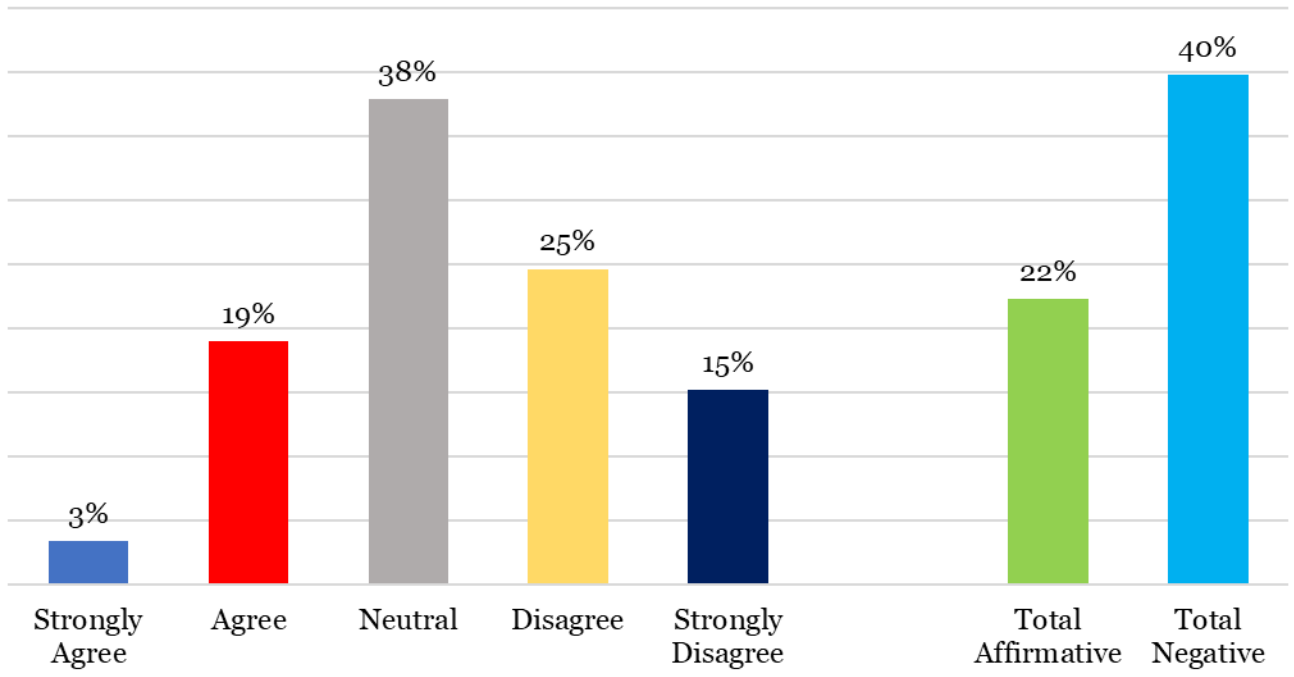
## Harmony

**RESPECT / COURTESY** – POSITIVE, RESPECTFUL, AND COURTEOUS ATTITUDES TOWARDS INCARCERATED PEOPLE BY STAFF

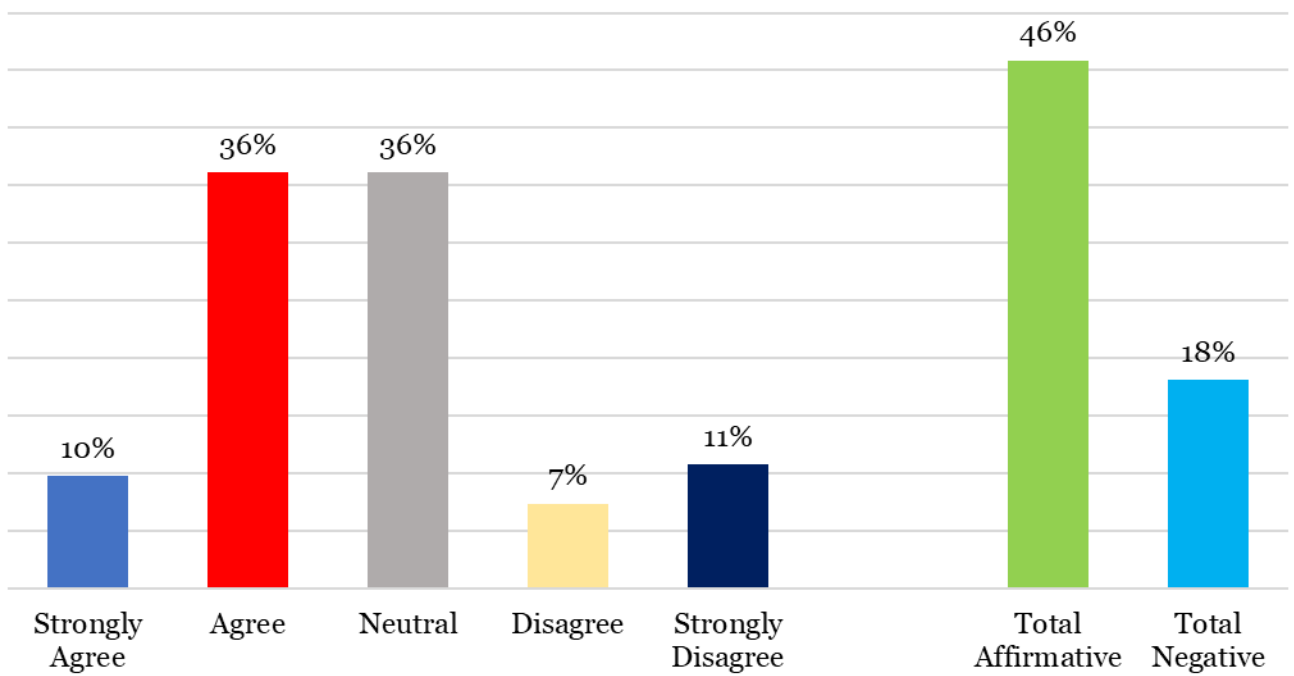


<sup>2</sup> “Total Affirmative” combines “Strongly Agree” and “Agree.” “Total Negative” combines “Strongly Disagree” and “Disagree.” Not all respondents responded to all questions; see tables at end of document for number of responses per question.

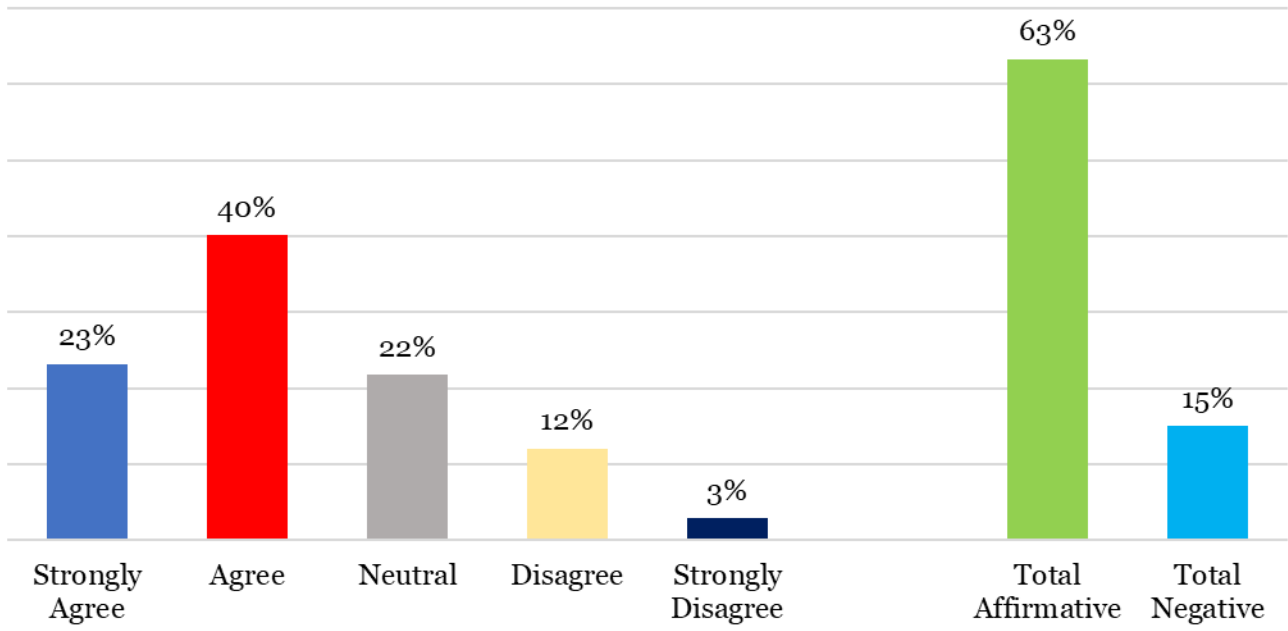
### Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.



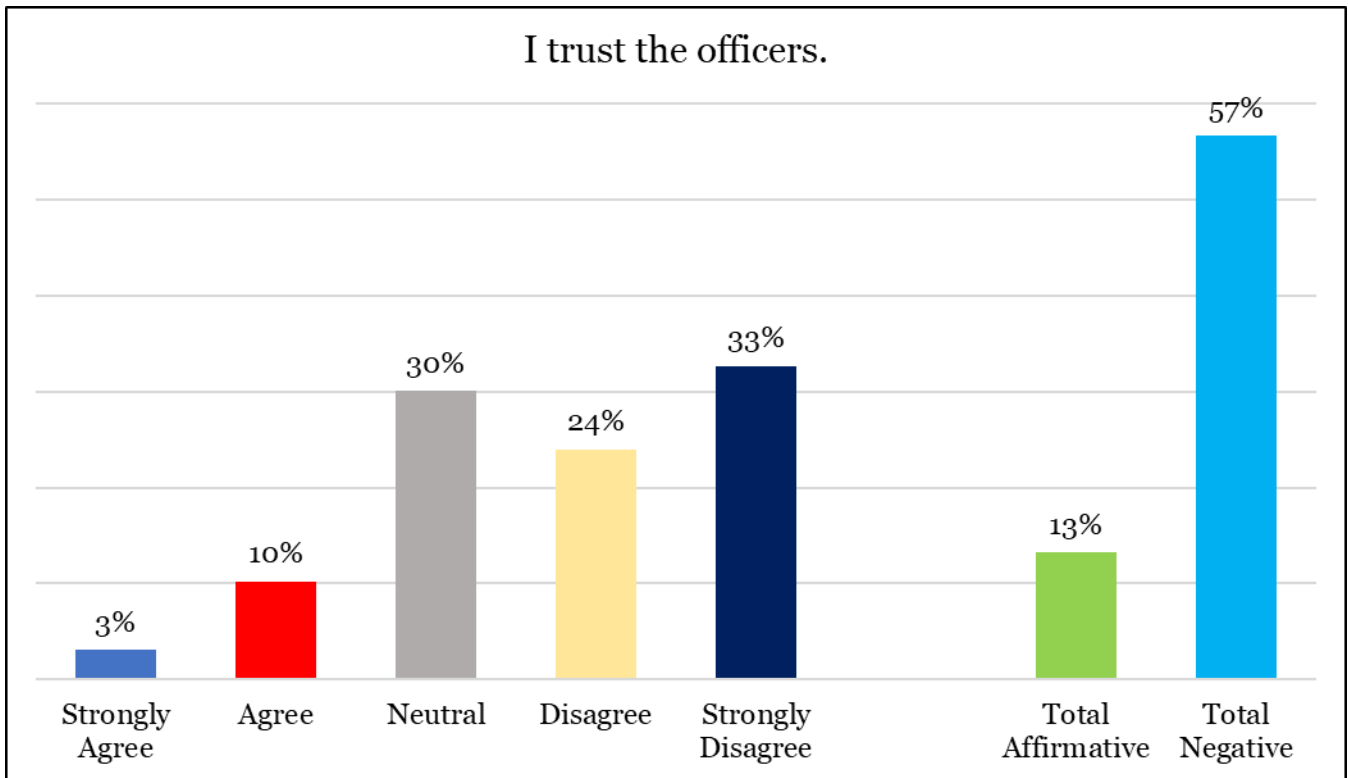
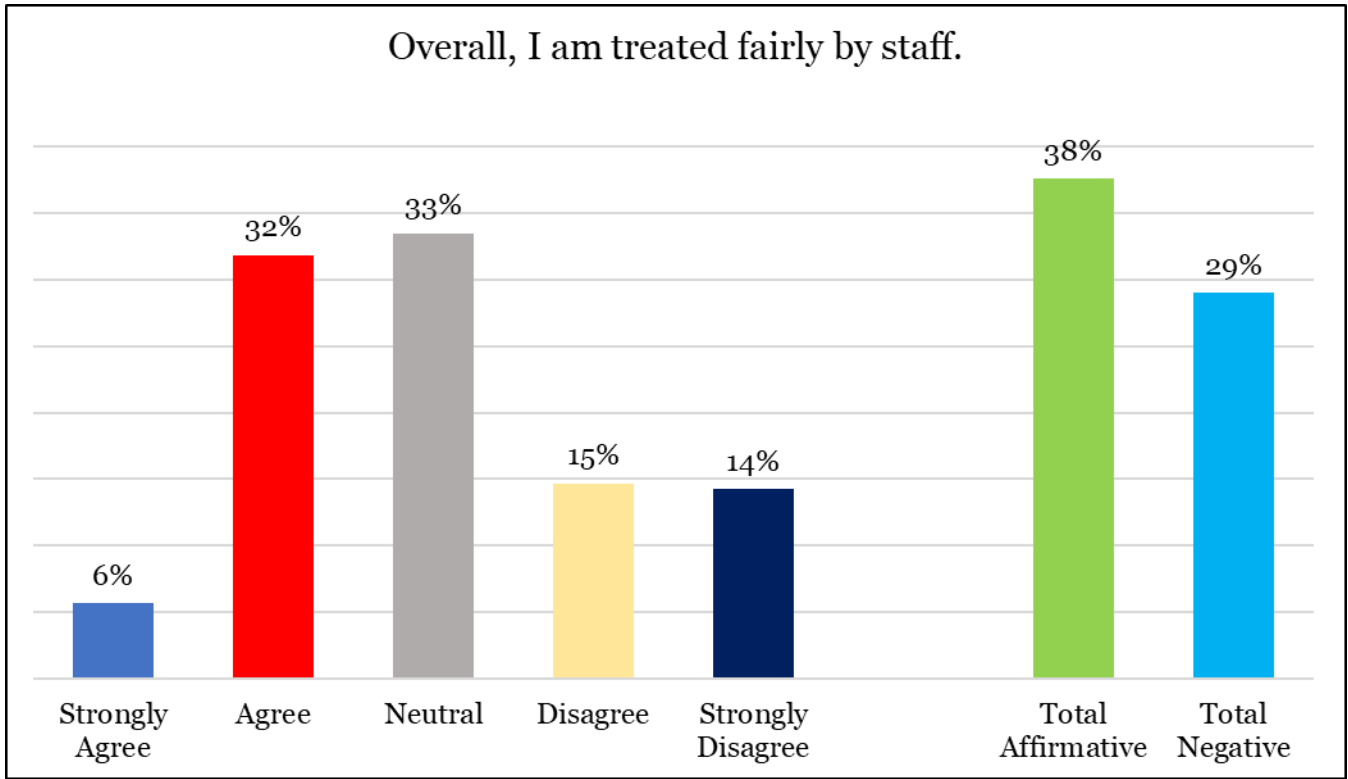
### I get along well with the officers on my unit.



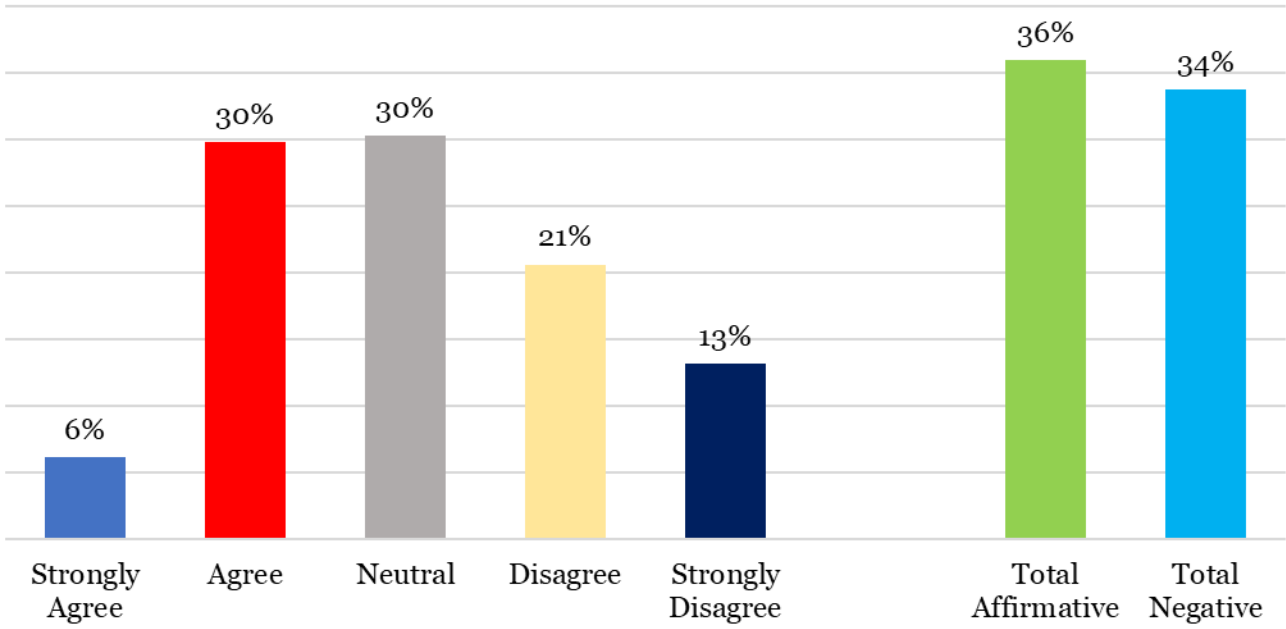
### Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.



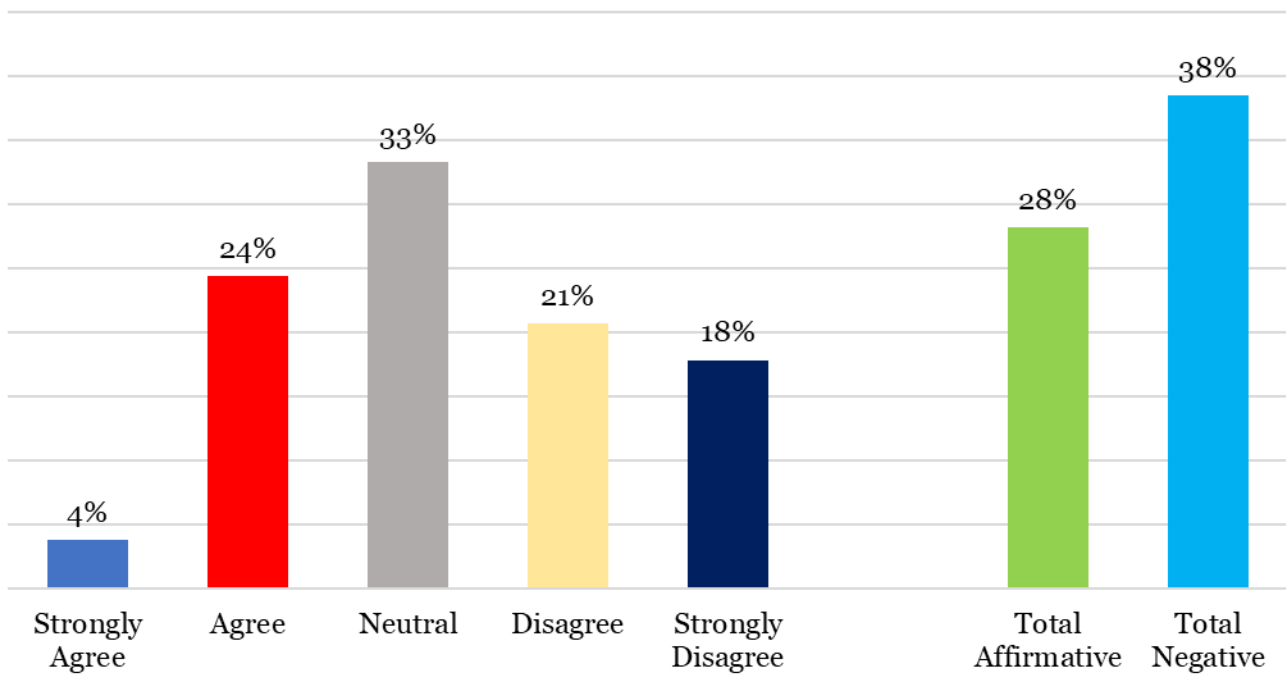
**STAFF-INCARCERATED PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS – TRUSTING, FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND INCARCERATED PEOPLE**



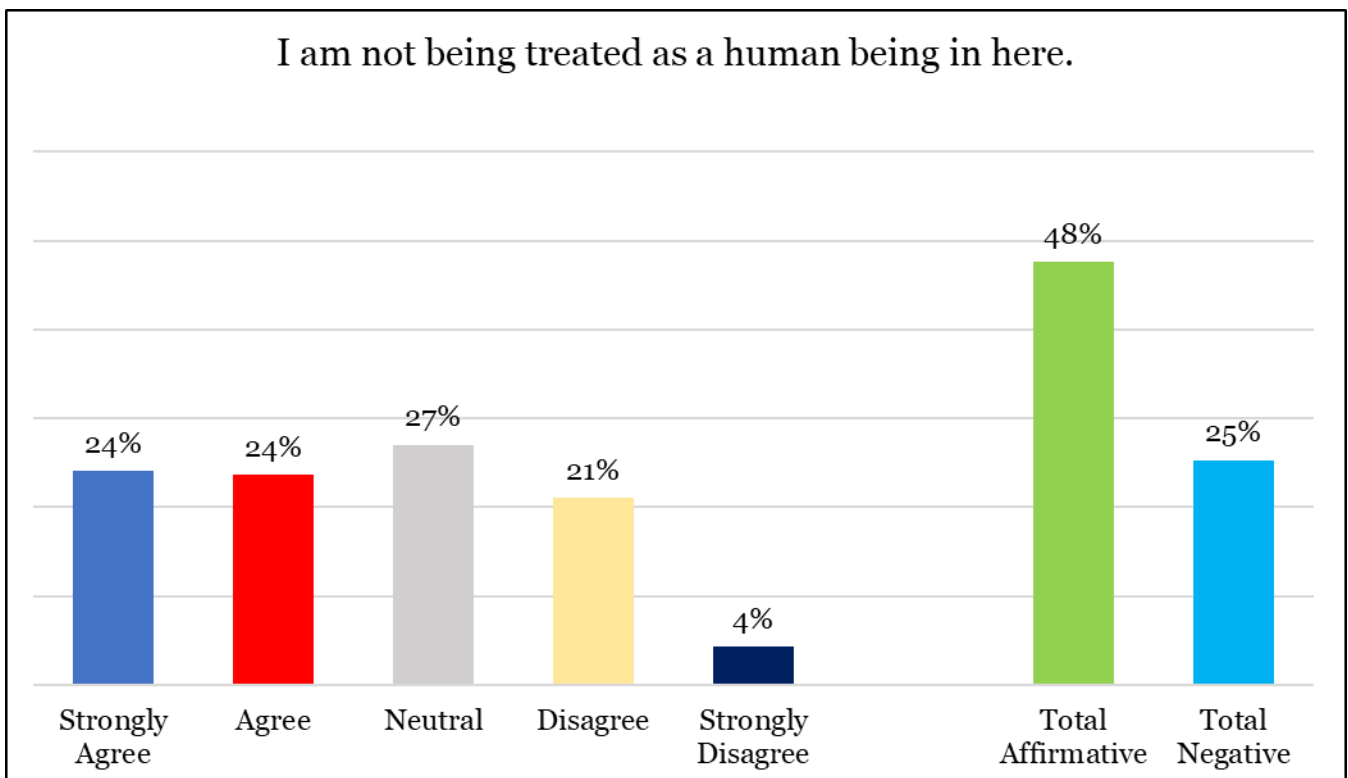
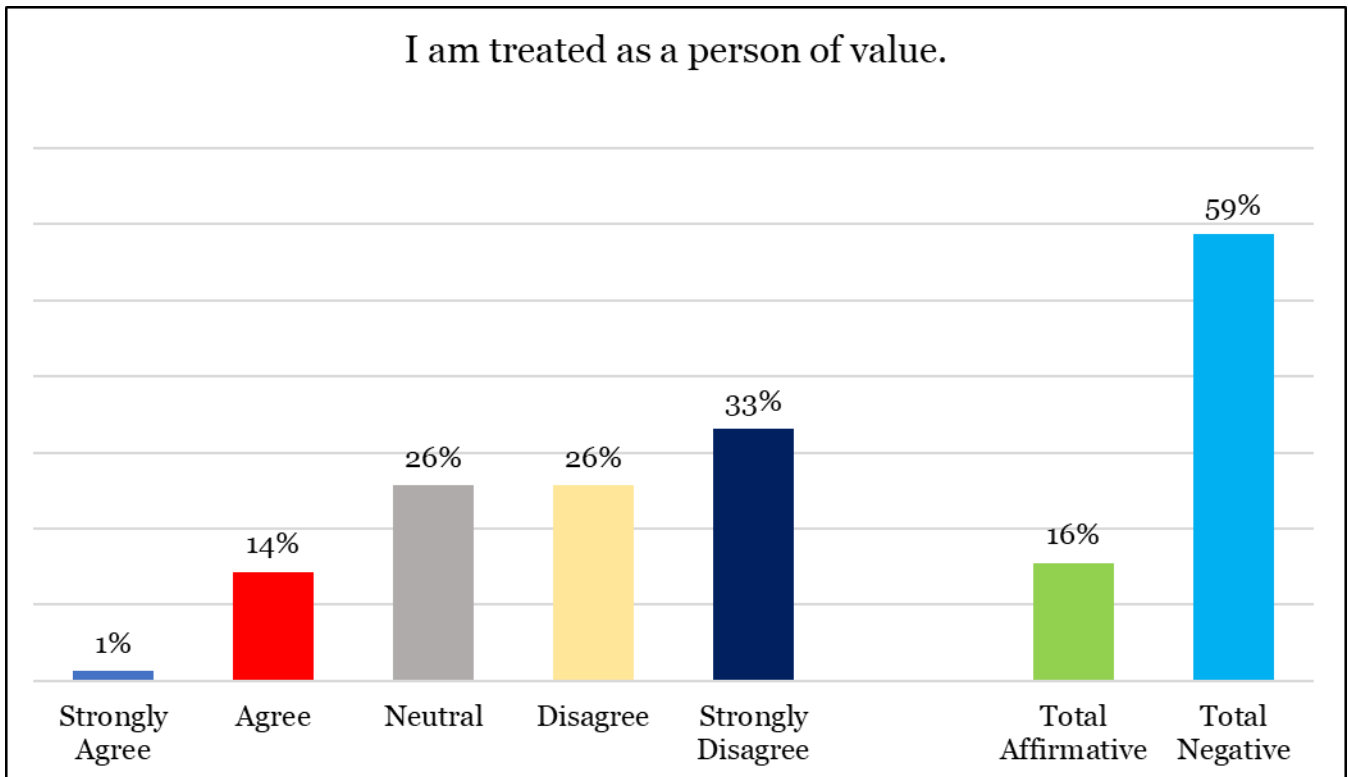
When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.



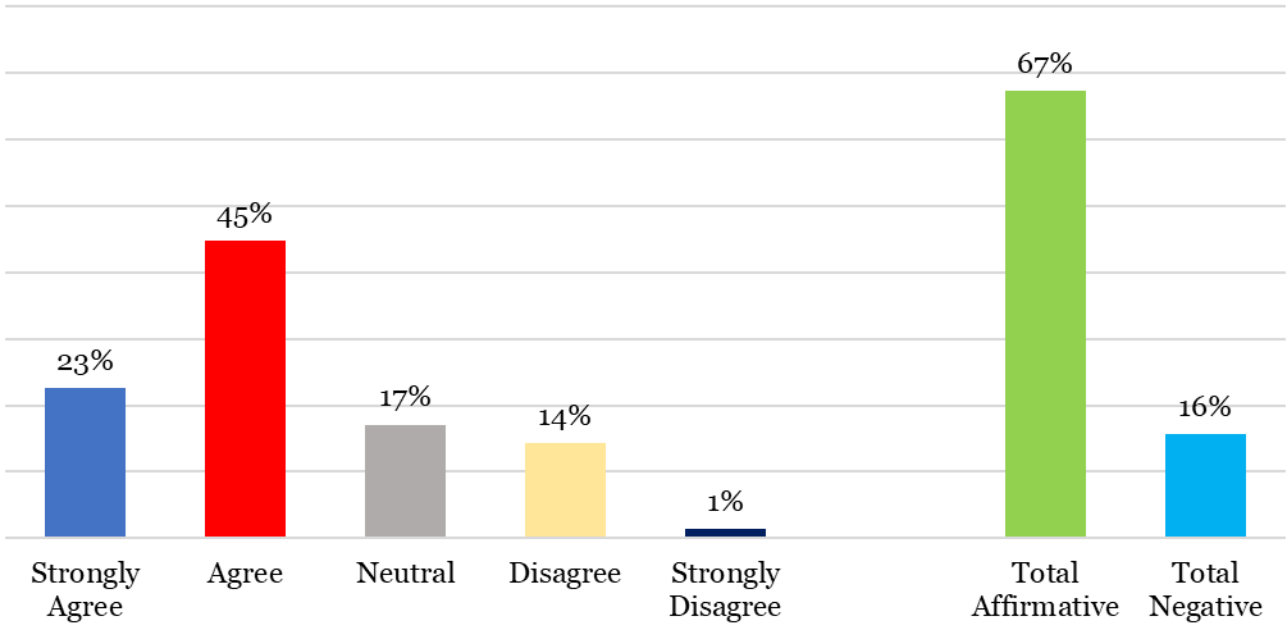
I receive support from staff when I need it.



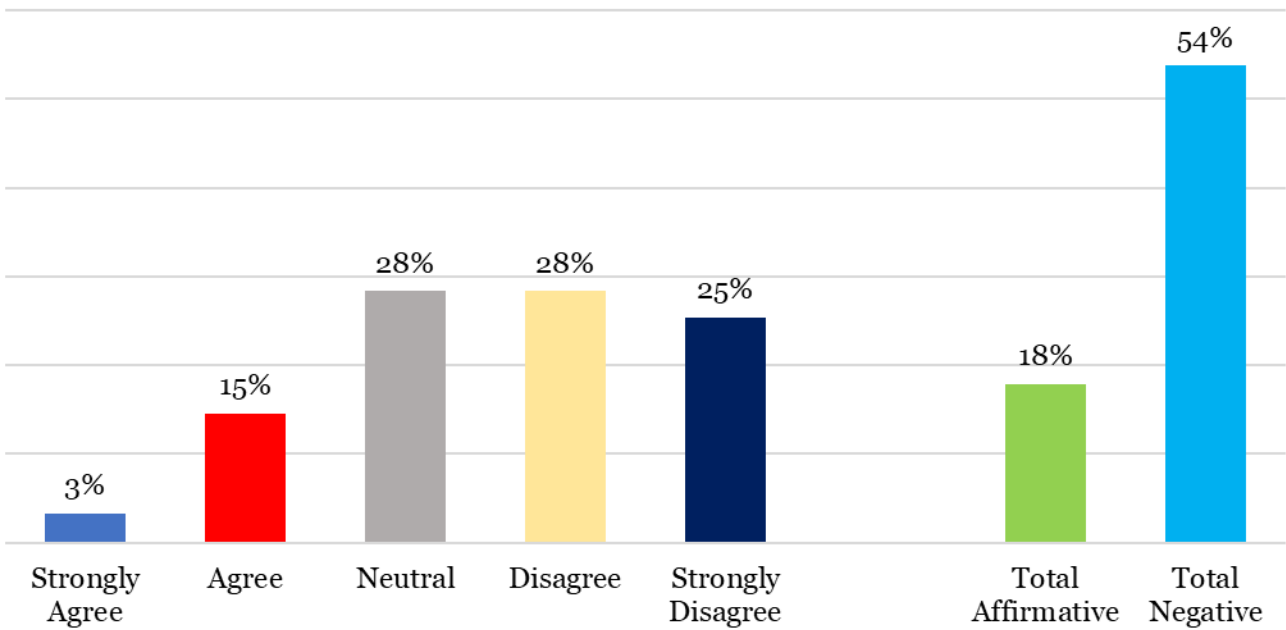
**HUMANITY** – AN ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY KIND REGARD AND CONCERN FOR THE PERSON, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE VALUE AND HUMANITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL



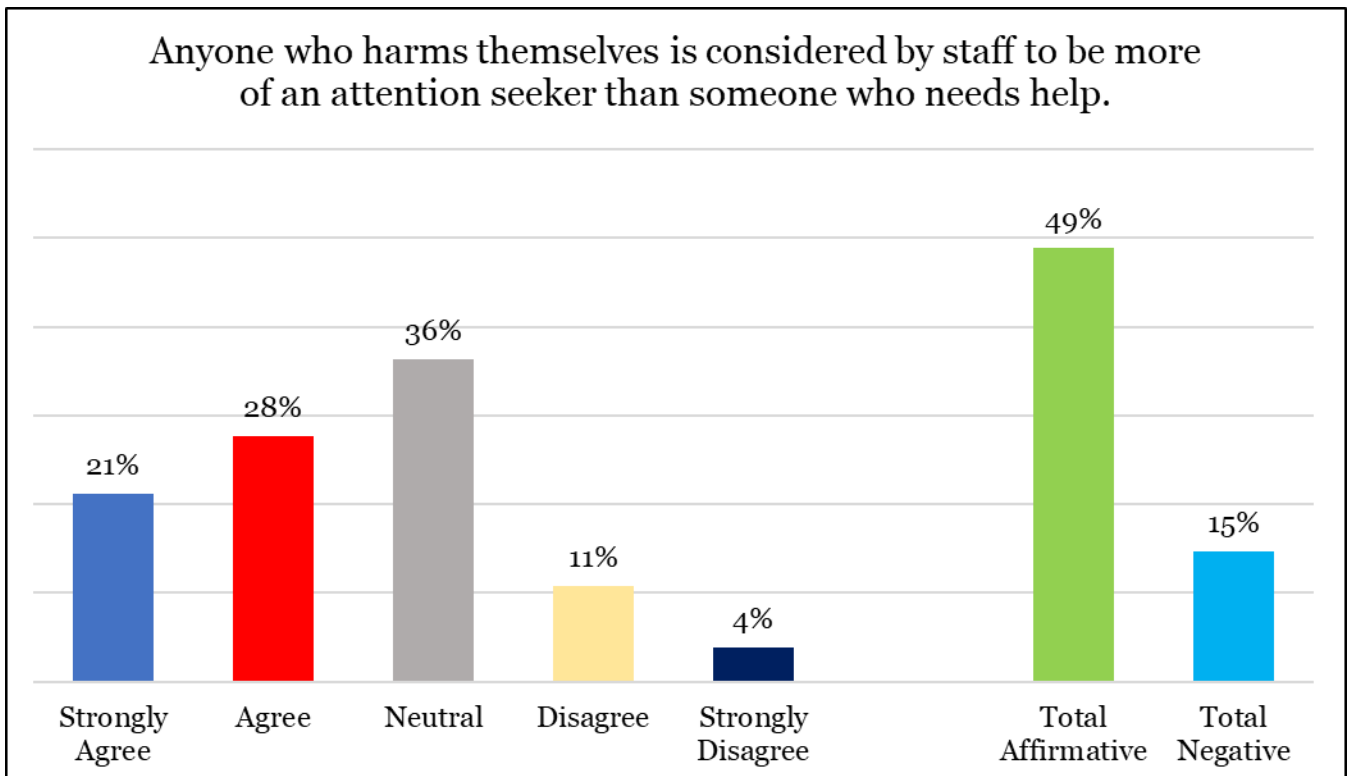
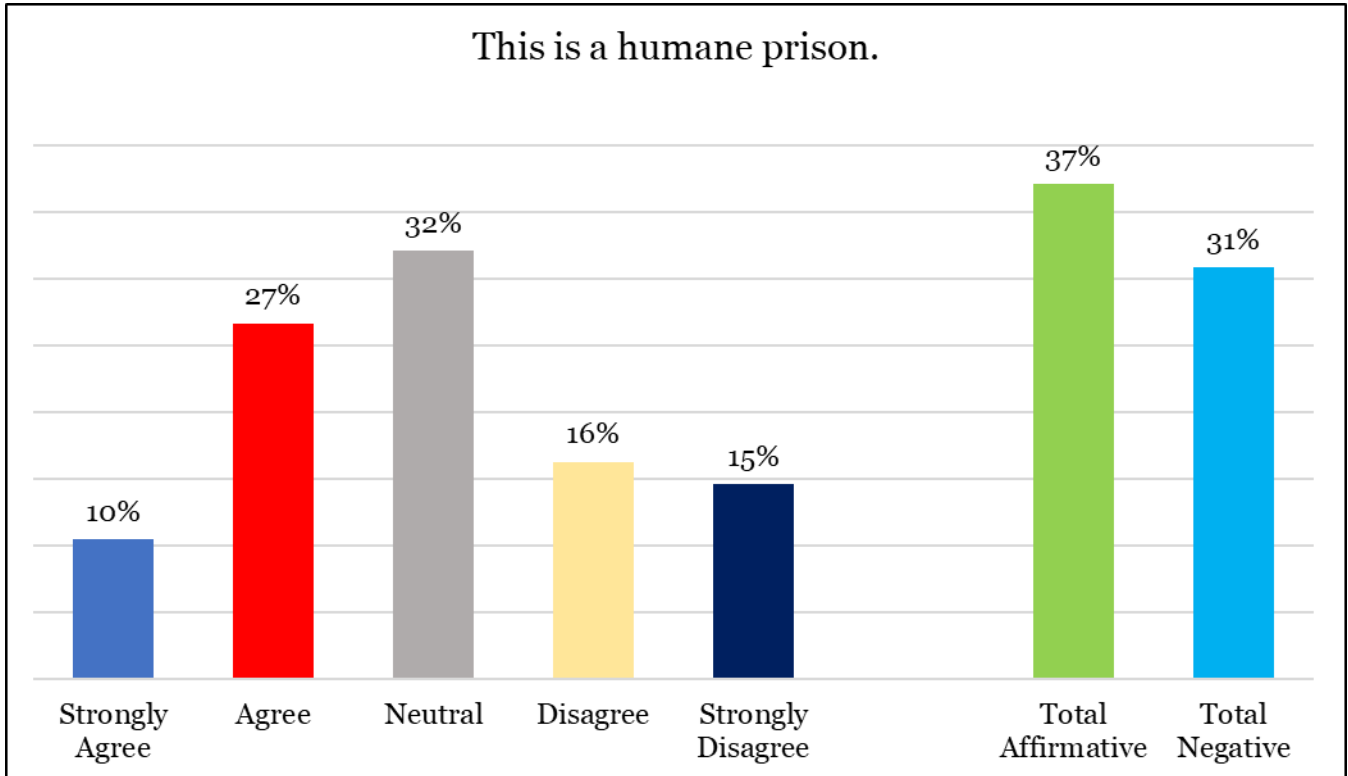
Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.



Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.

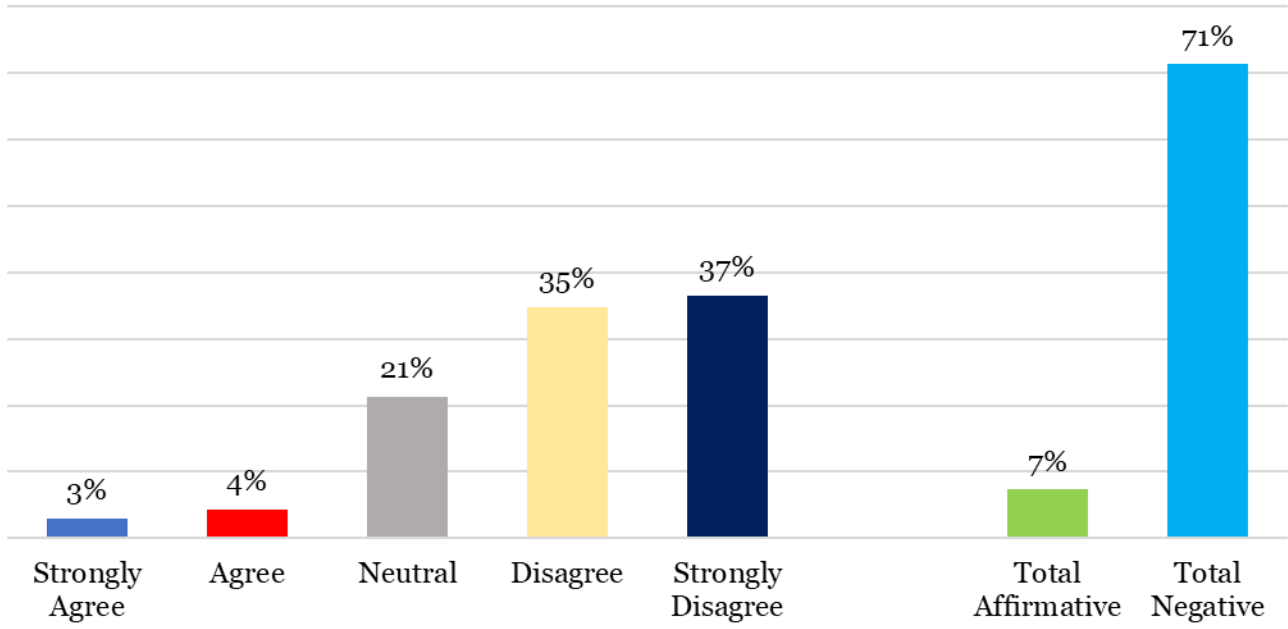


**DECENCY - THE EXTENT TO WHICH STAFF AND THE REGIME ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE**

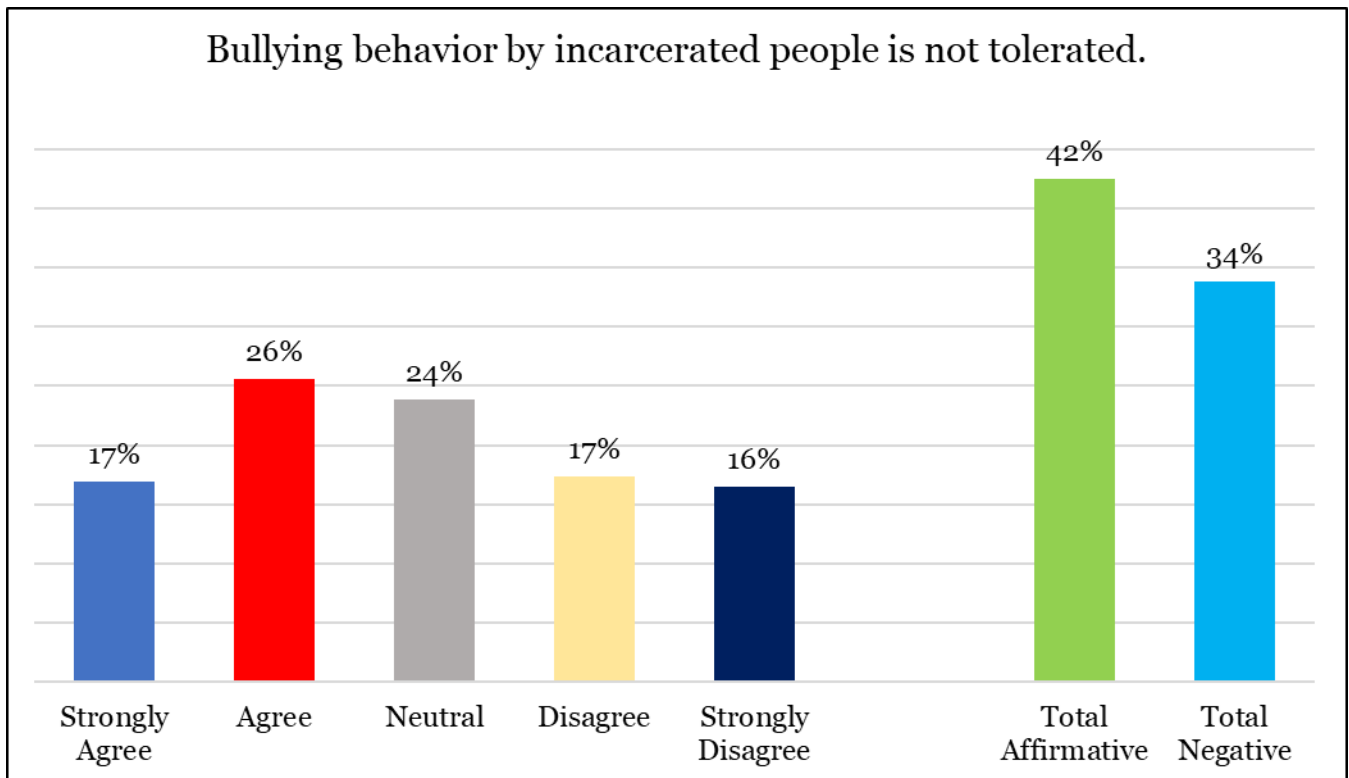




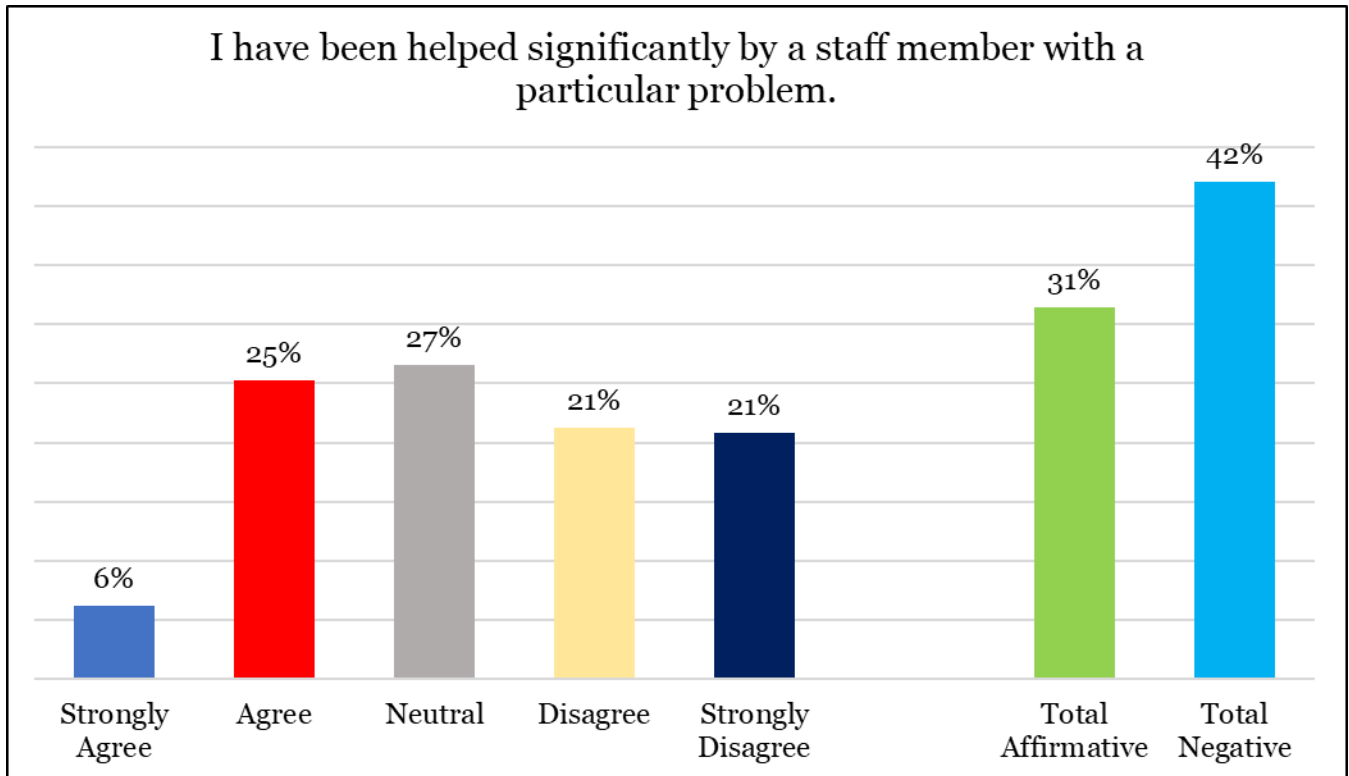
Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.



**CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE – THE CARE AND SUPPORT PROVIDED TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE AT RISK OF SELF-HARM, SUICIDE OR BULLYING**

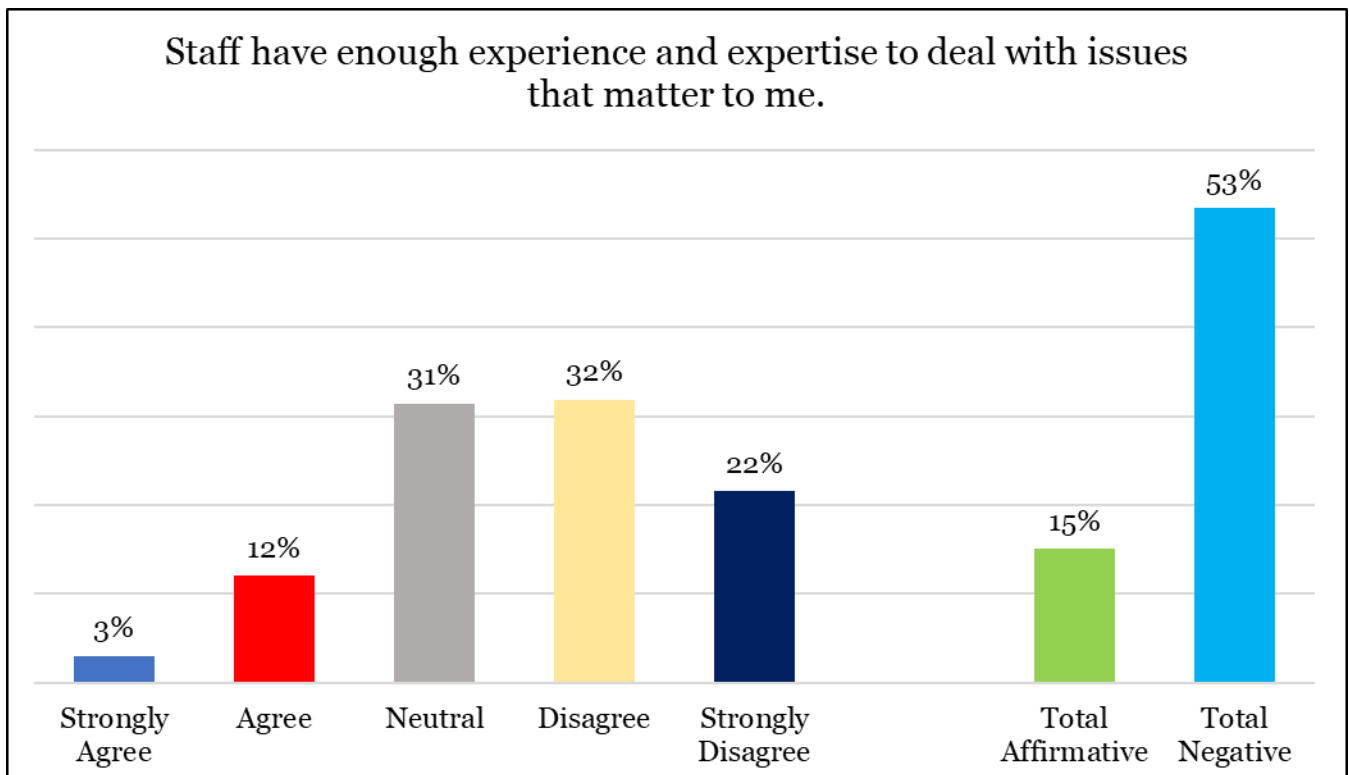
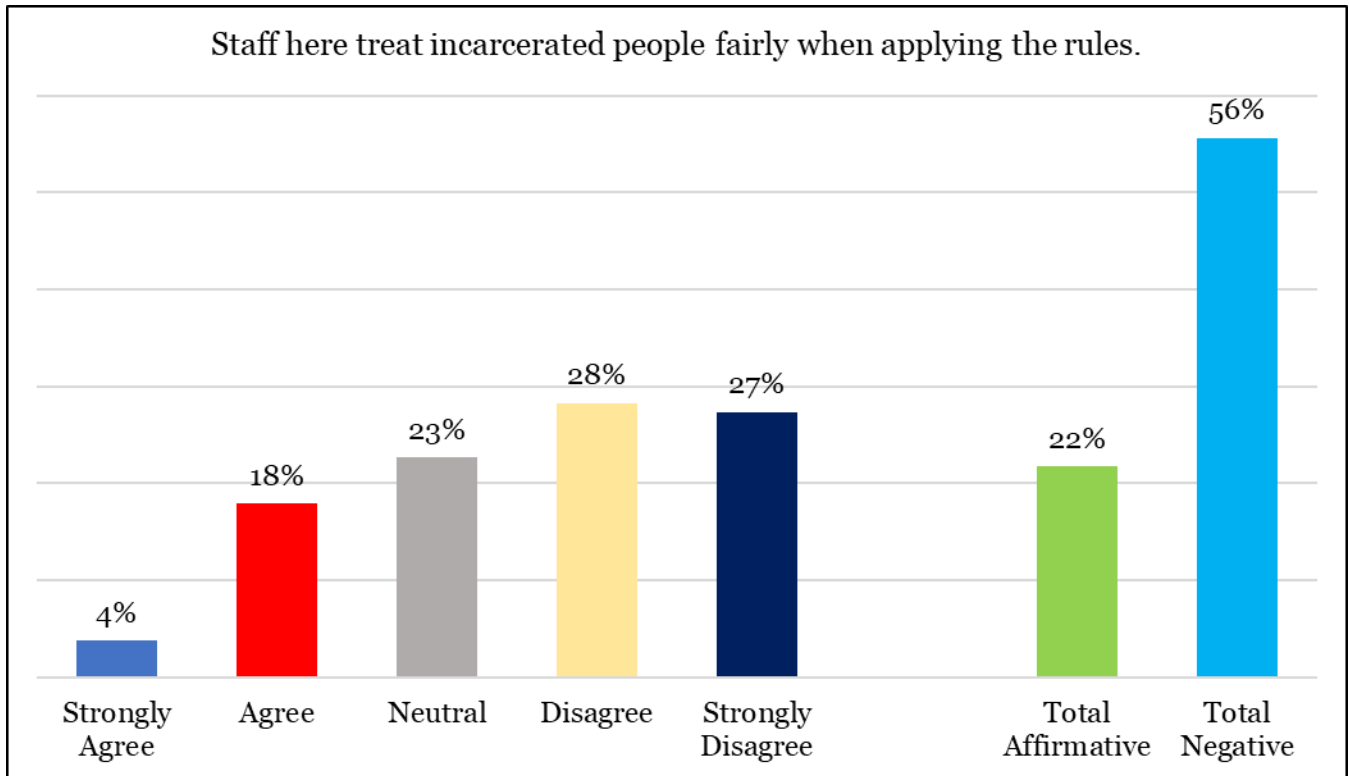


**HELP AND ASSISTANCE – SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO INCARCERATED PEOPLE FOR PROBLEMS INCLUDING DRUGS, HEALTHCARE AND PROGRESSION**

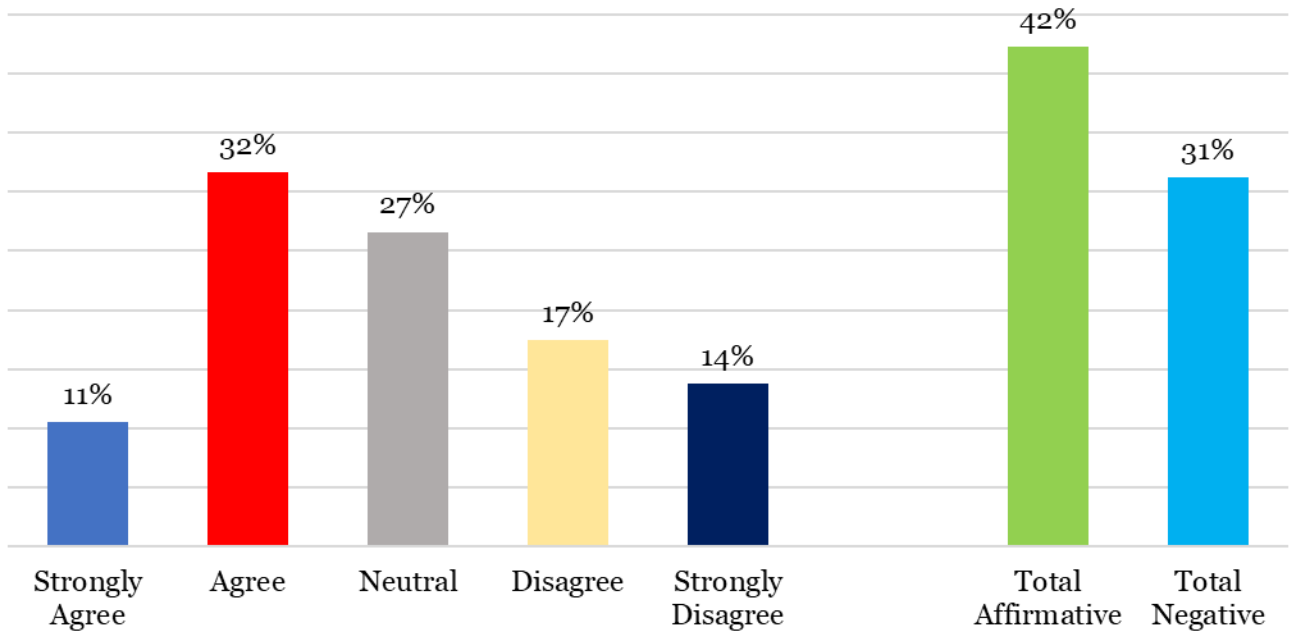


# Professionalism

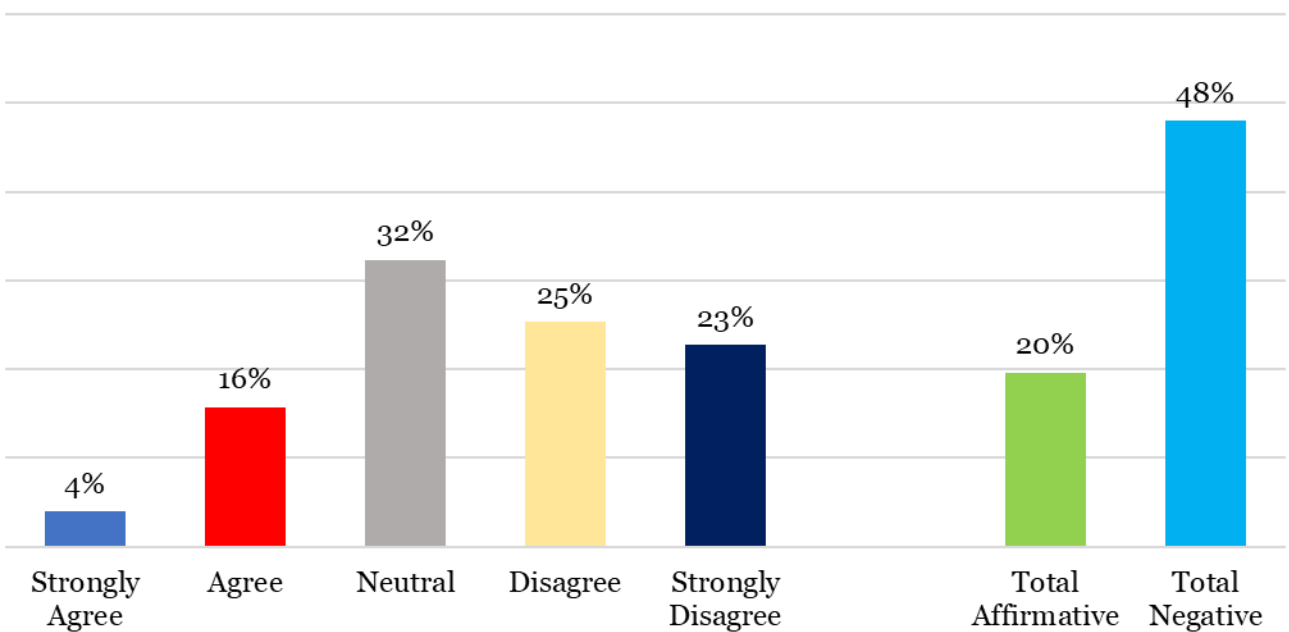
## STAFF PROFESSIONALISM – STAFF CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE USE OF AUTHORITY



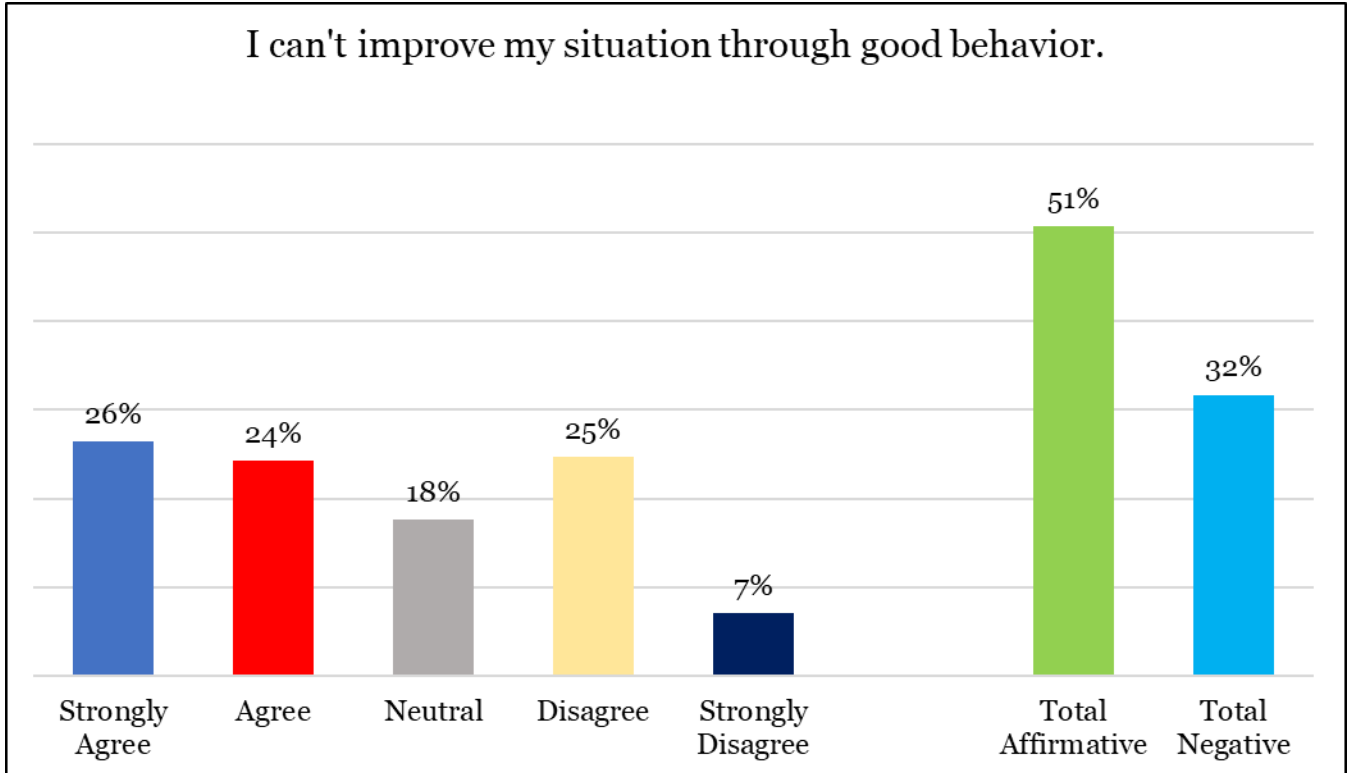
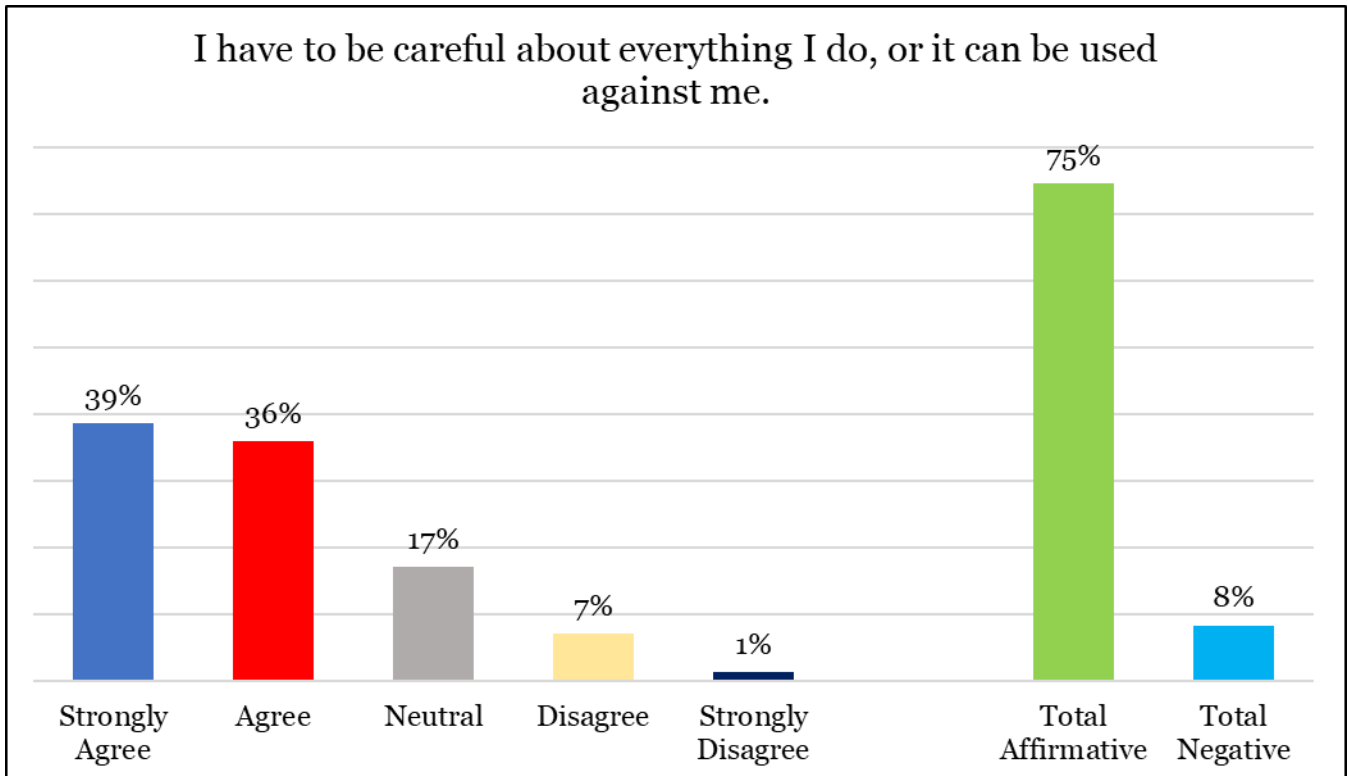
The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.



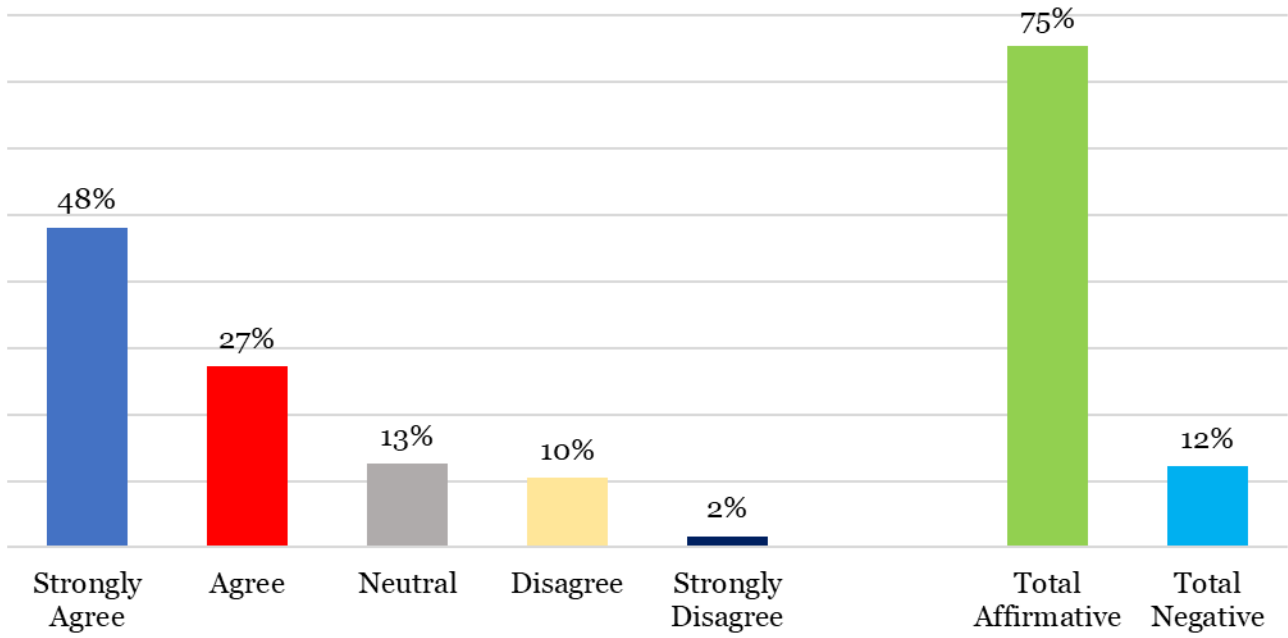
If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.



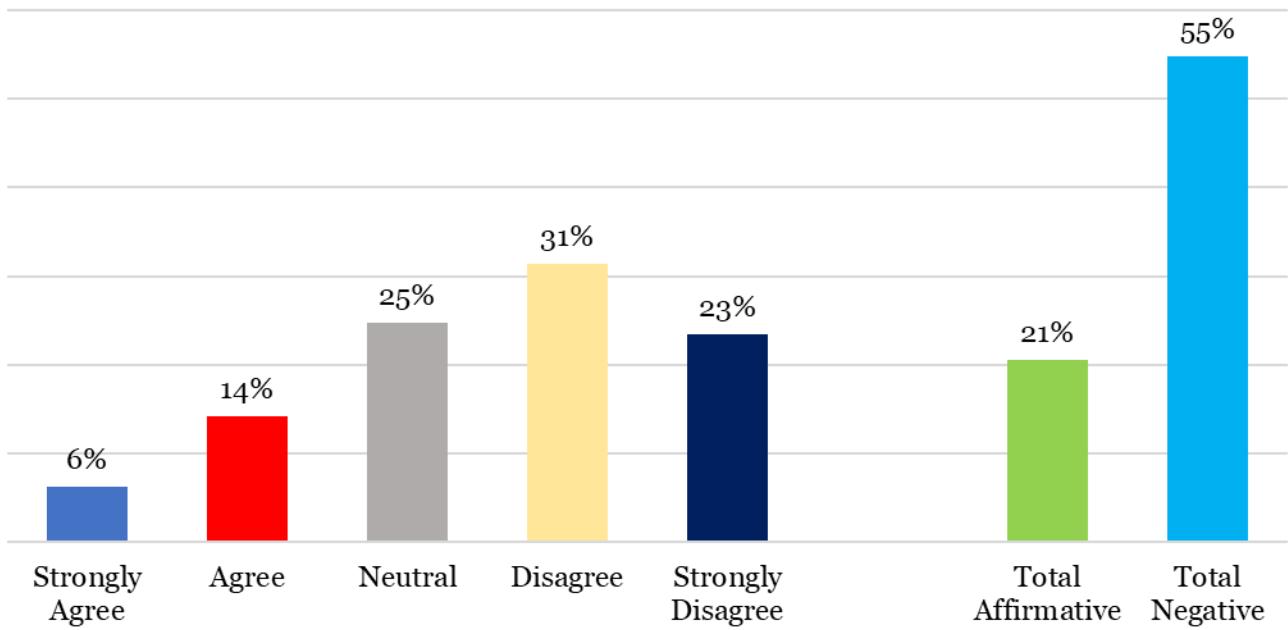
**BUREAUCRATIC LEGITIMACY – THE TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PRISON/PRISON SYSTEM AND ITS MORAL RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**



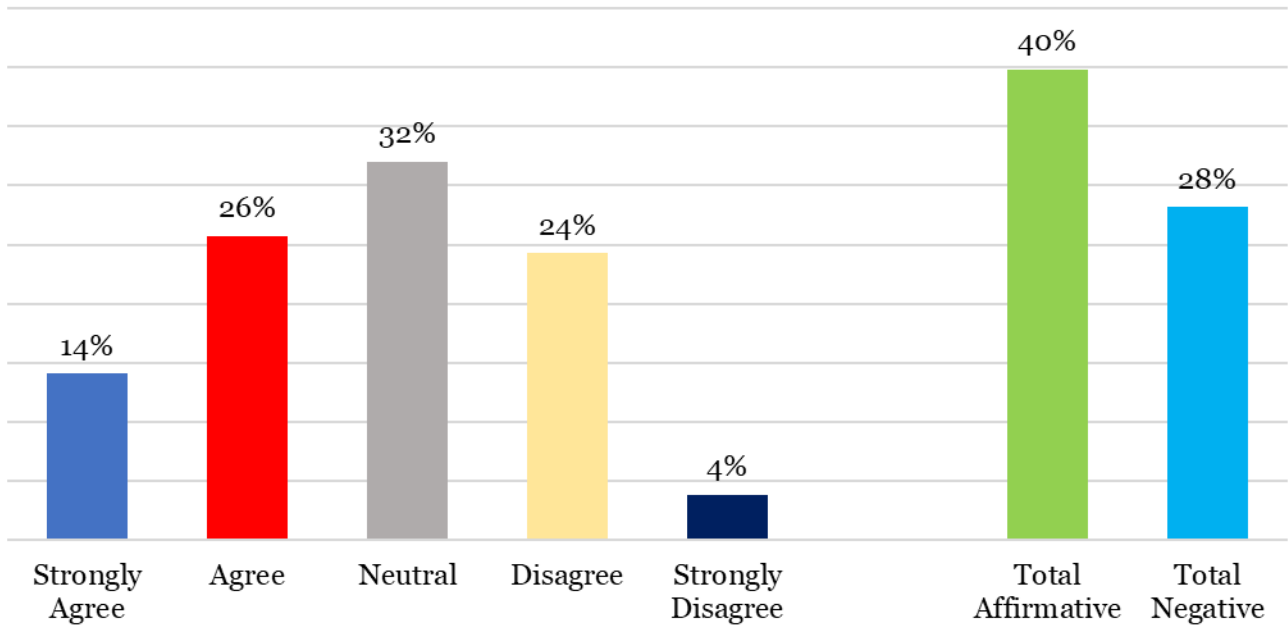
All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.



When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual, not a number.

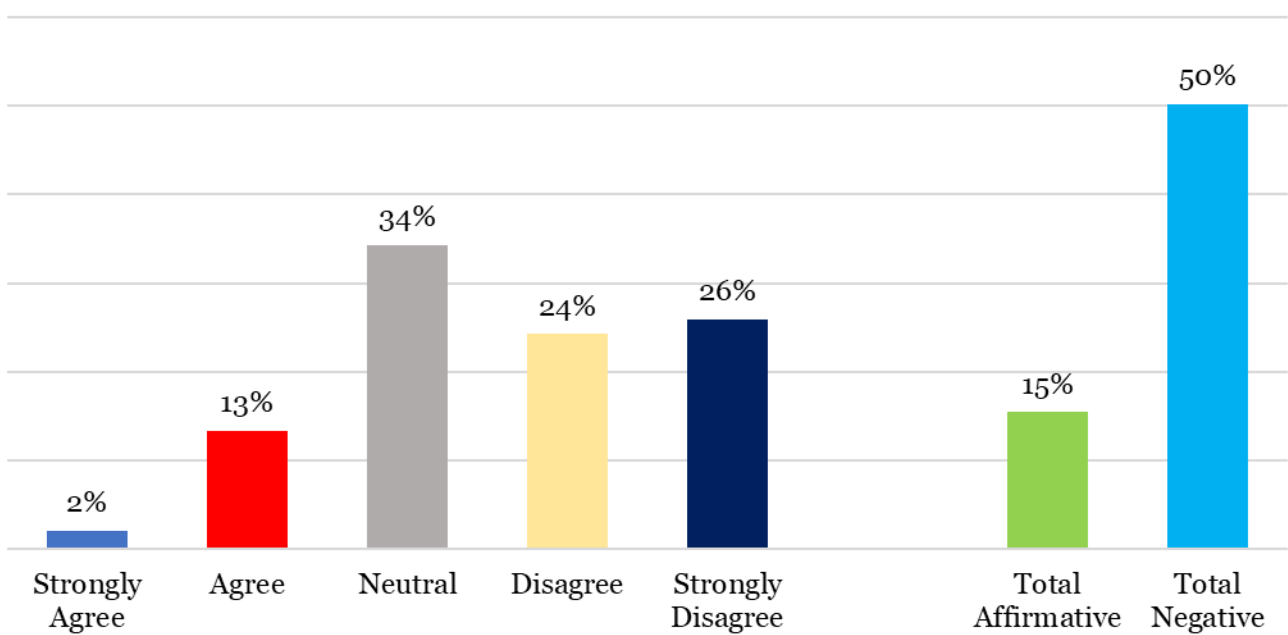


To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.



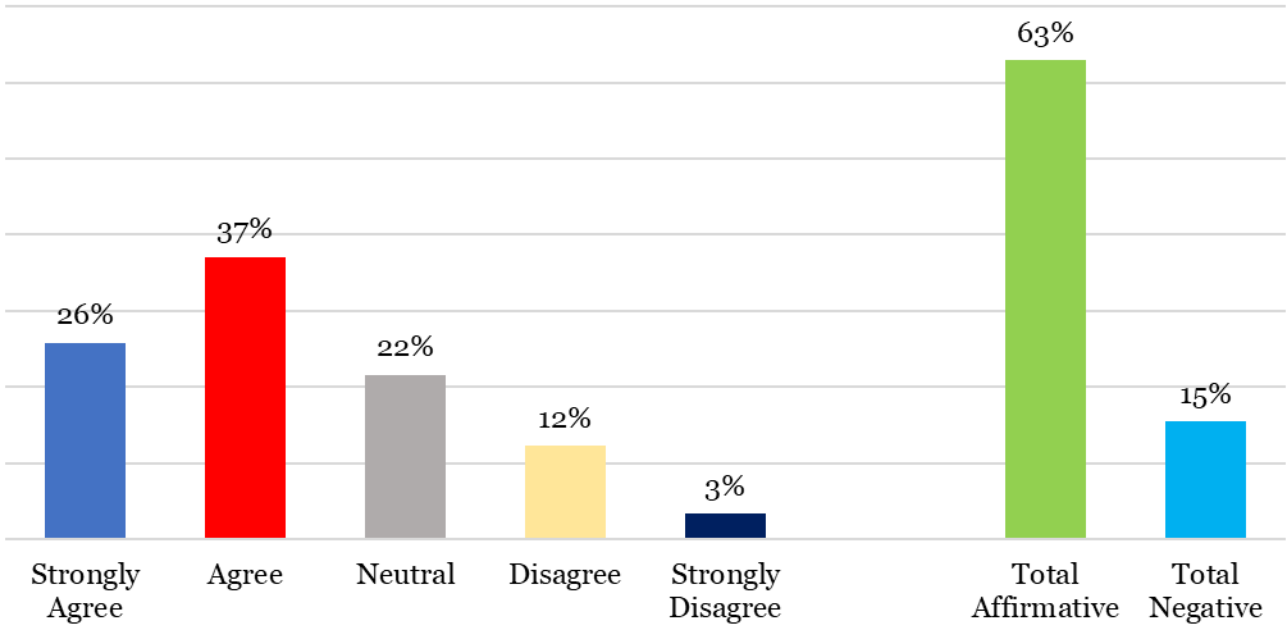
**FAIRNESS** – THE PERCEIVED IMPARTIALITY, PROPORTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF PUNISHMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The disciplinary system is fair.

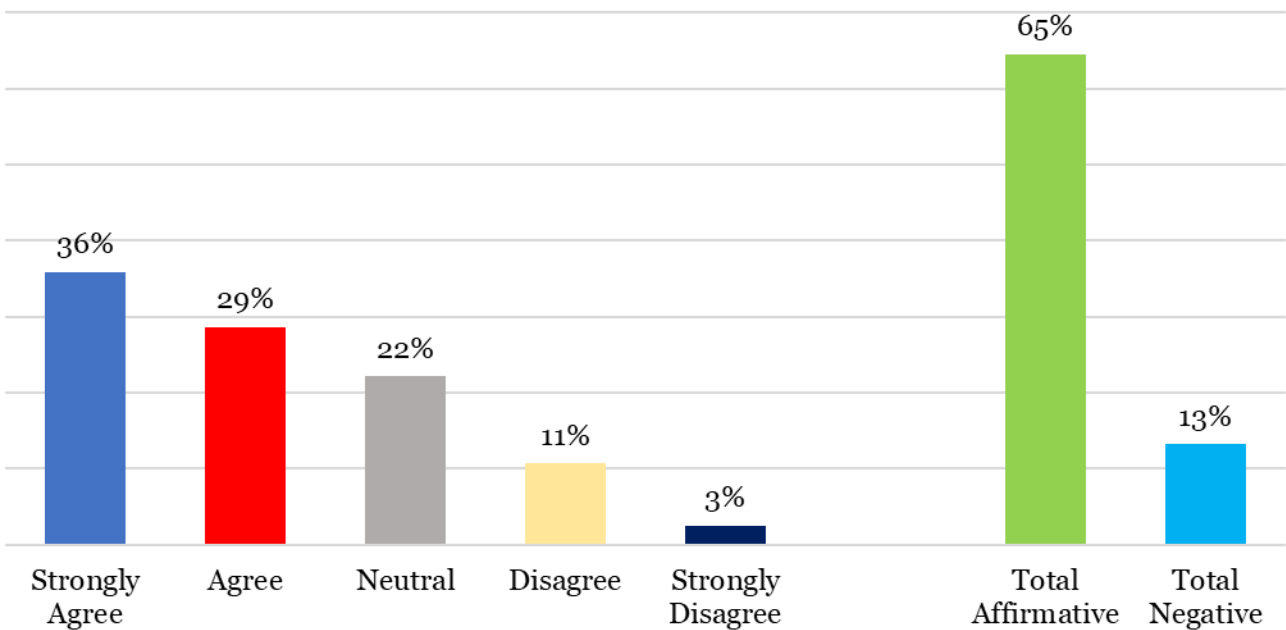




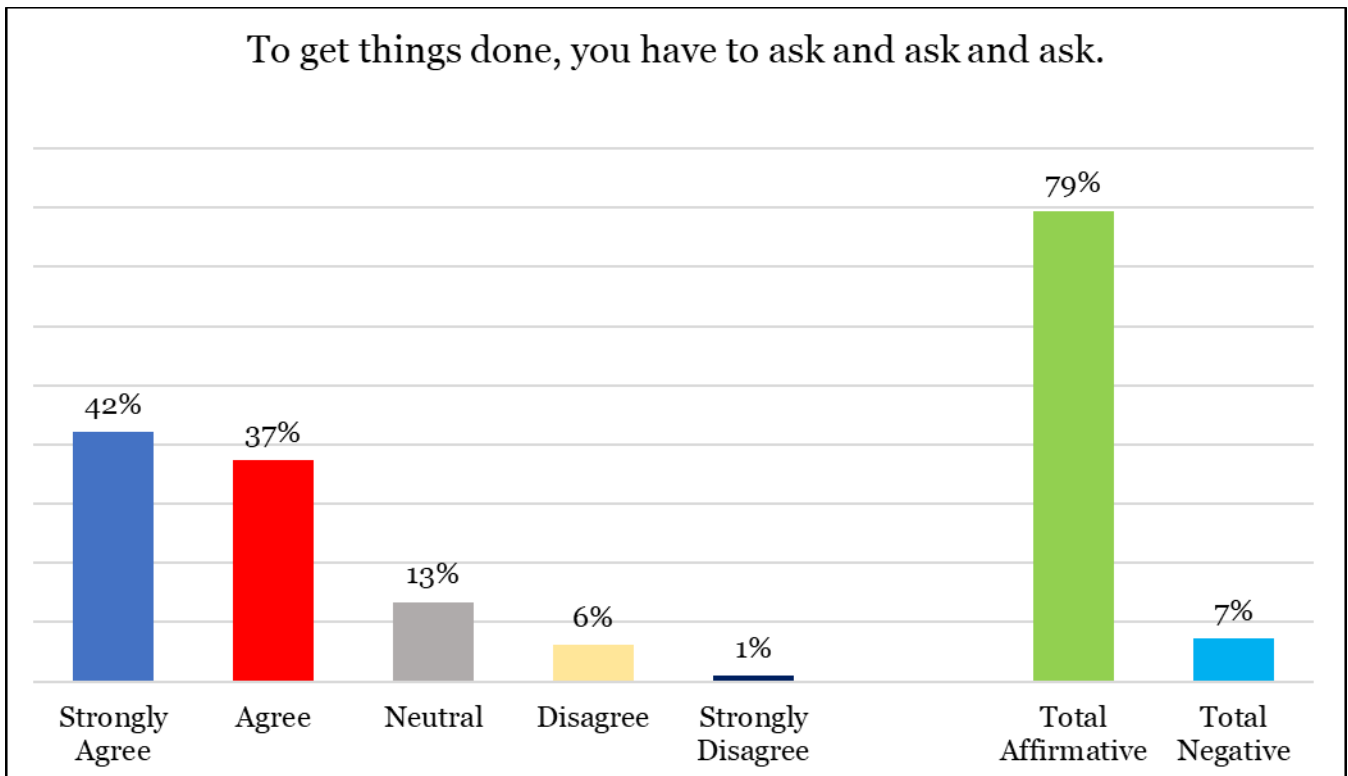
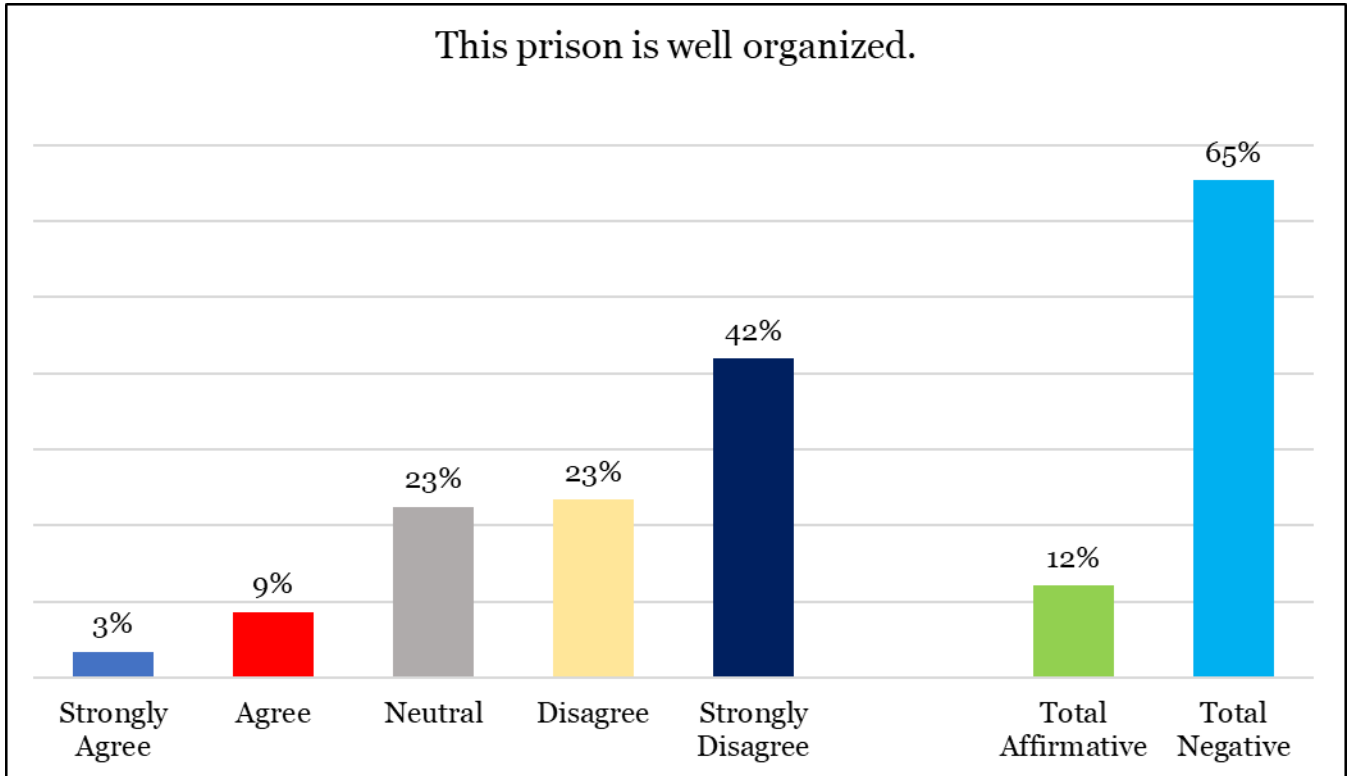
Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.



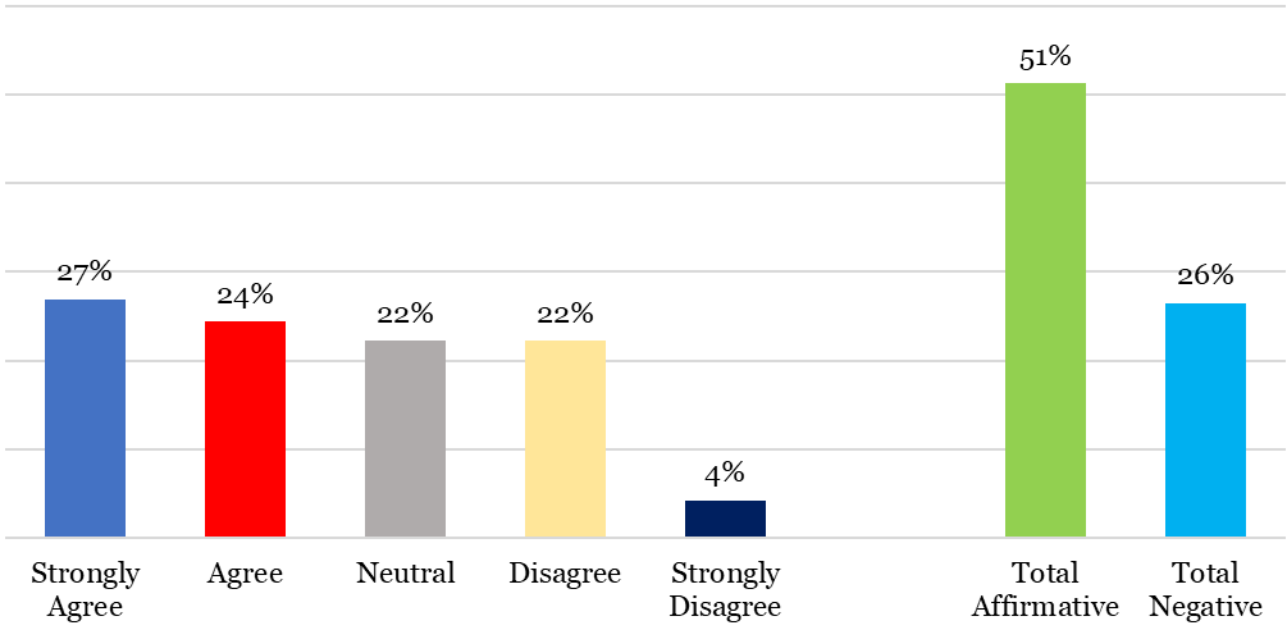
This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.



**ORGANIZATION AND CONSISTENCY – THE CLARITY, PREDICTABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE PRISON**

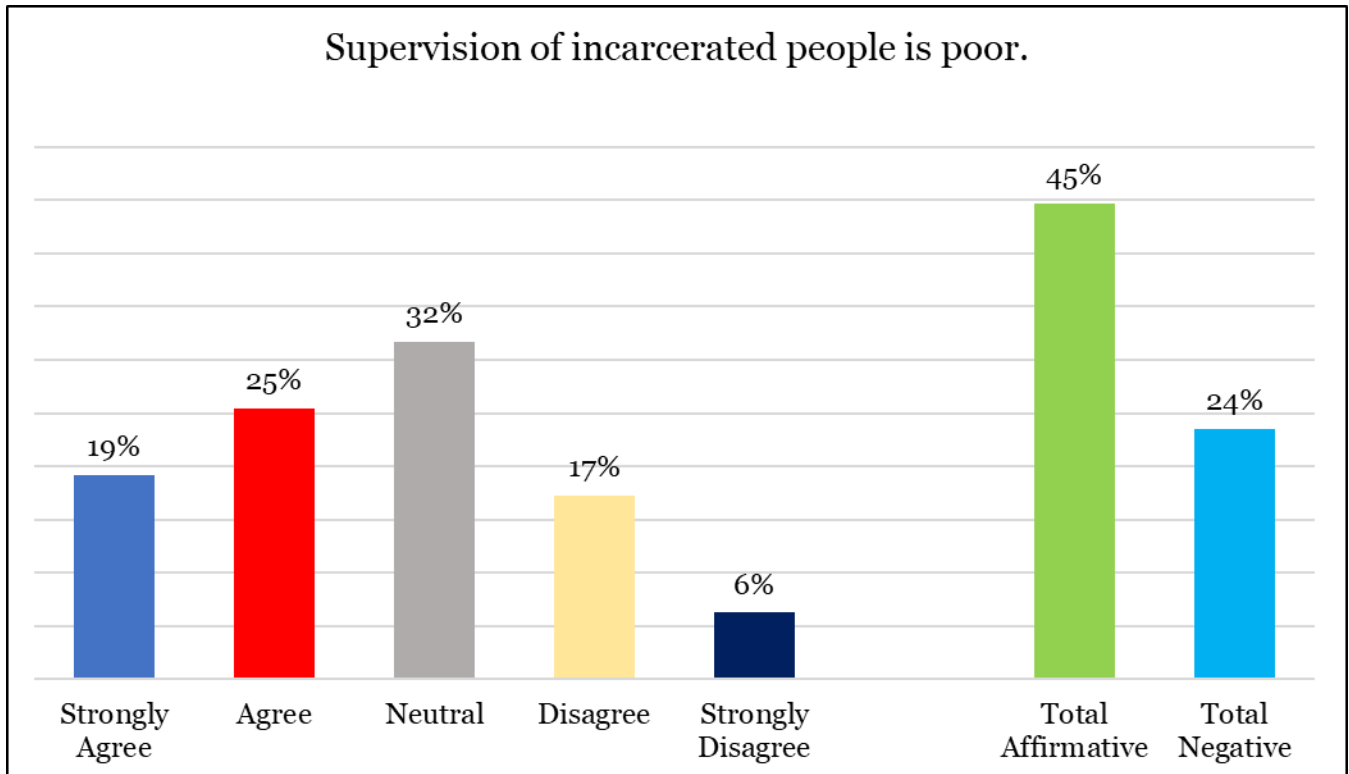


You never know the rules.

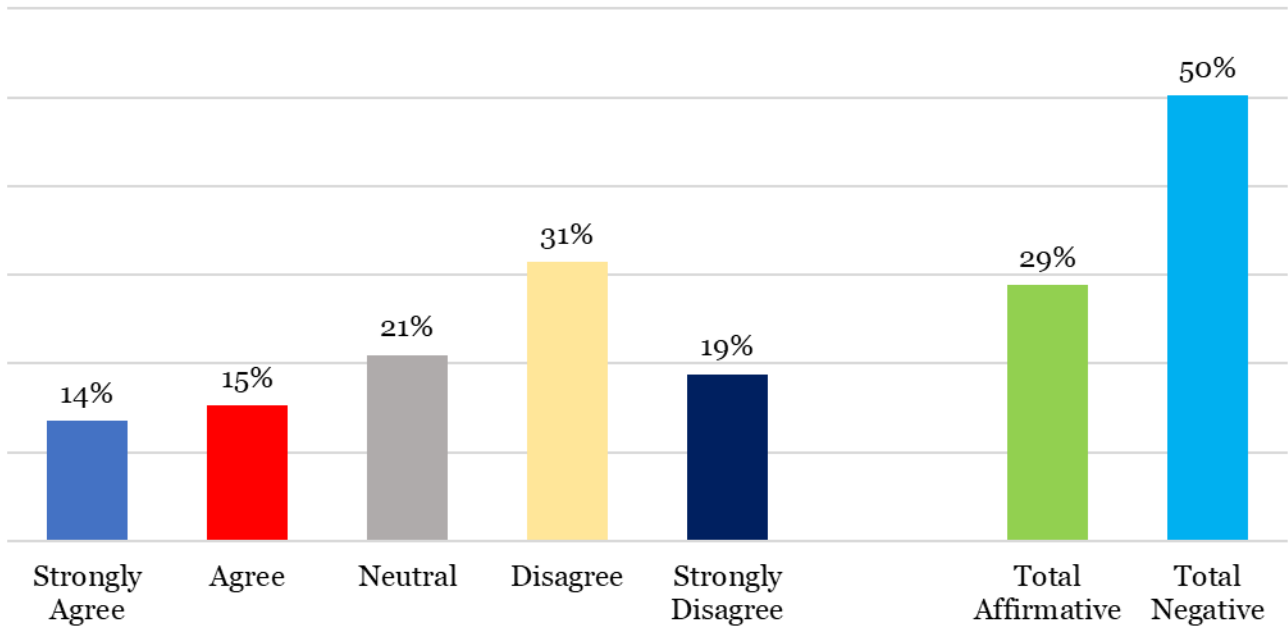


# Security

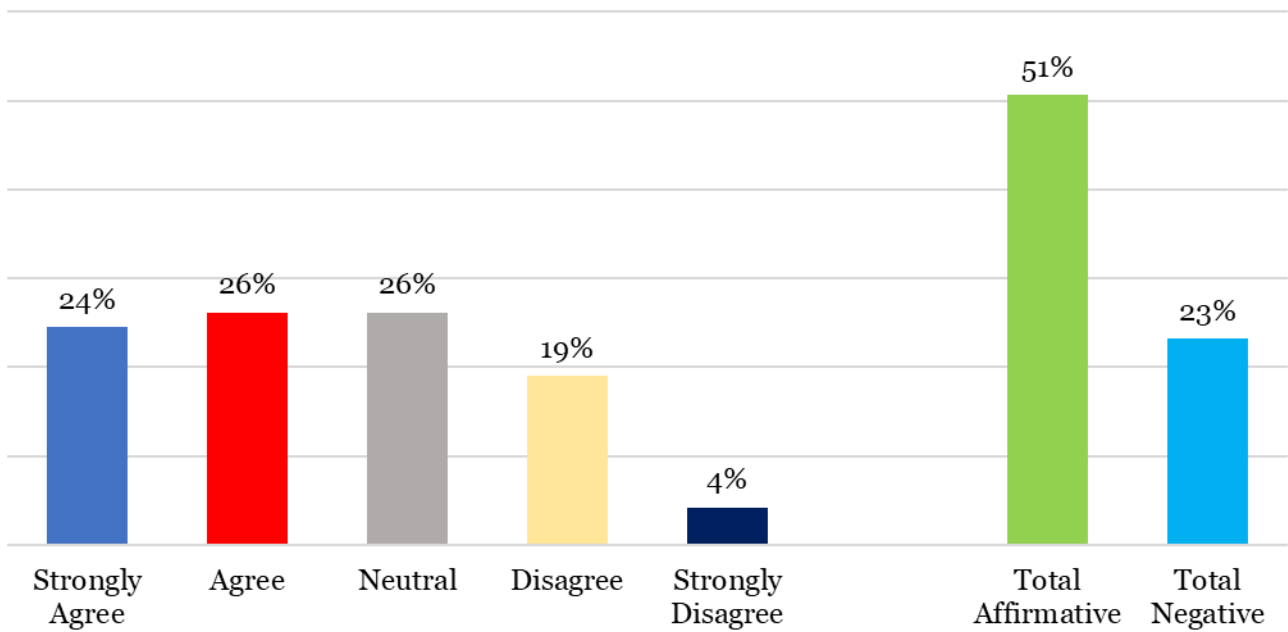
## POLICING AND SECURITY – STAFF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT



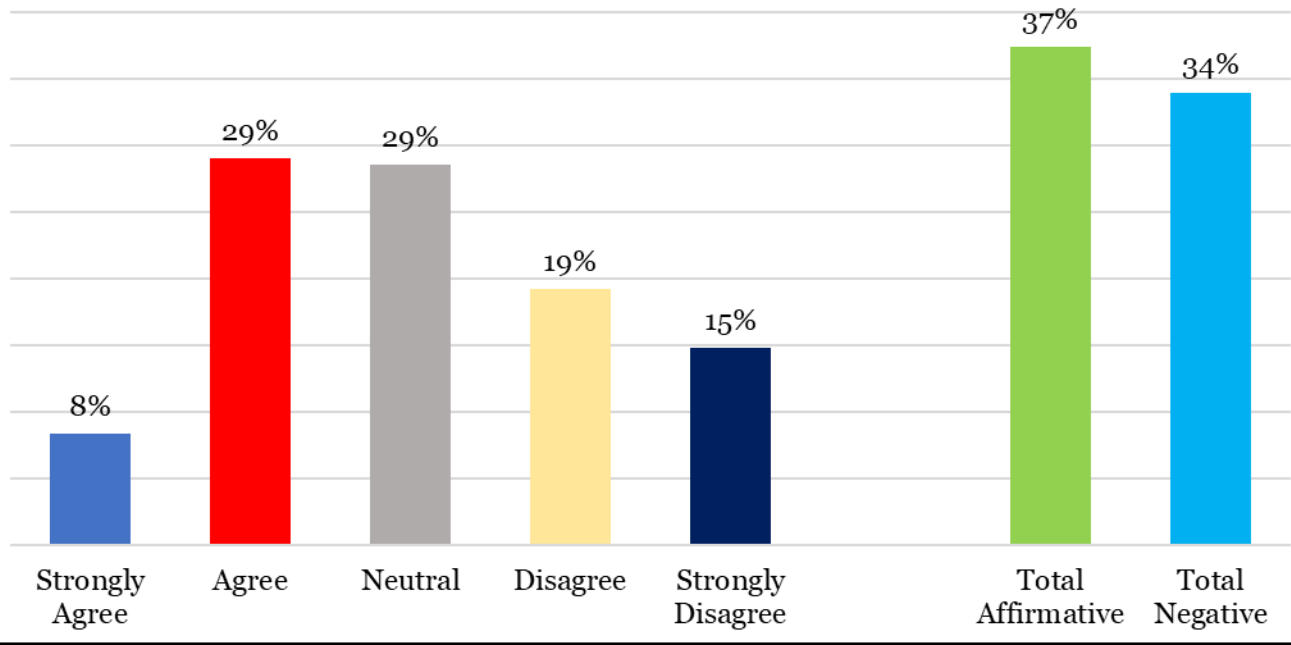
This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.



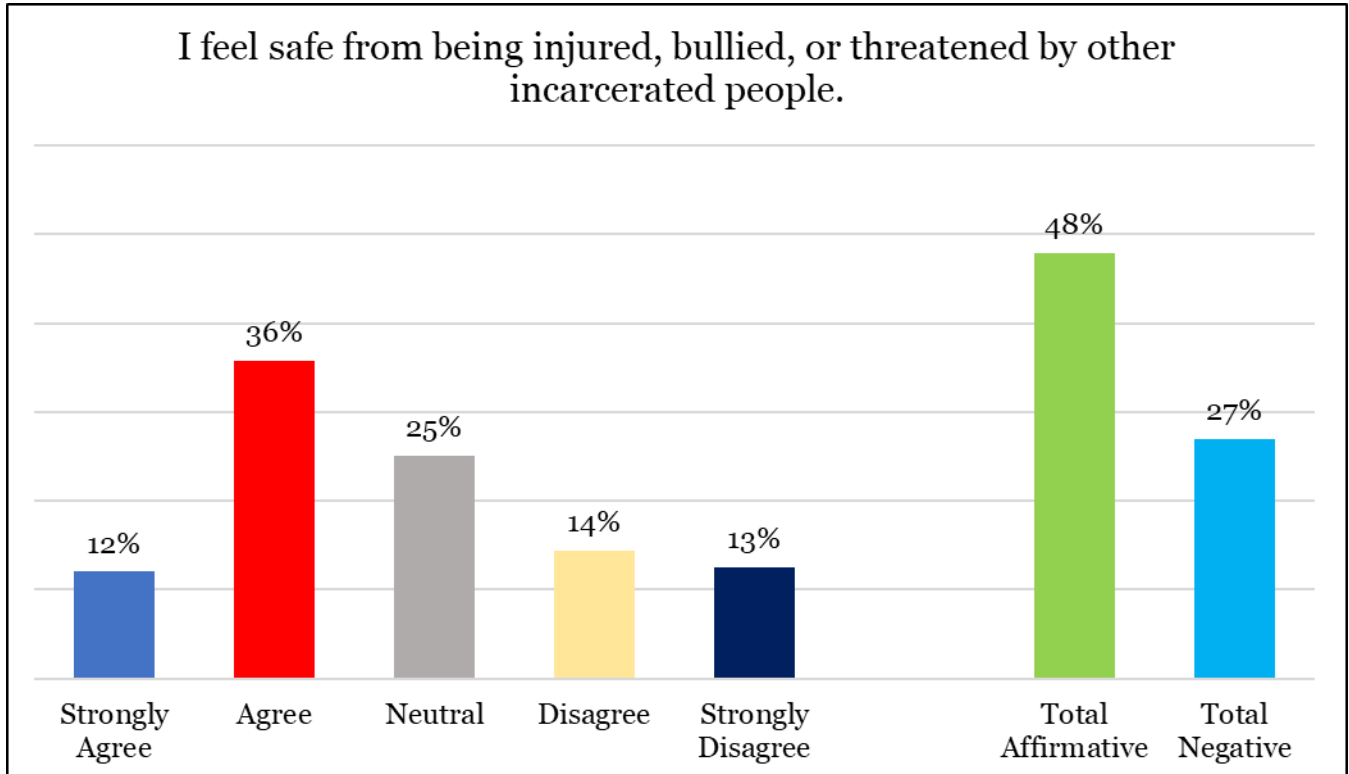
There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.



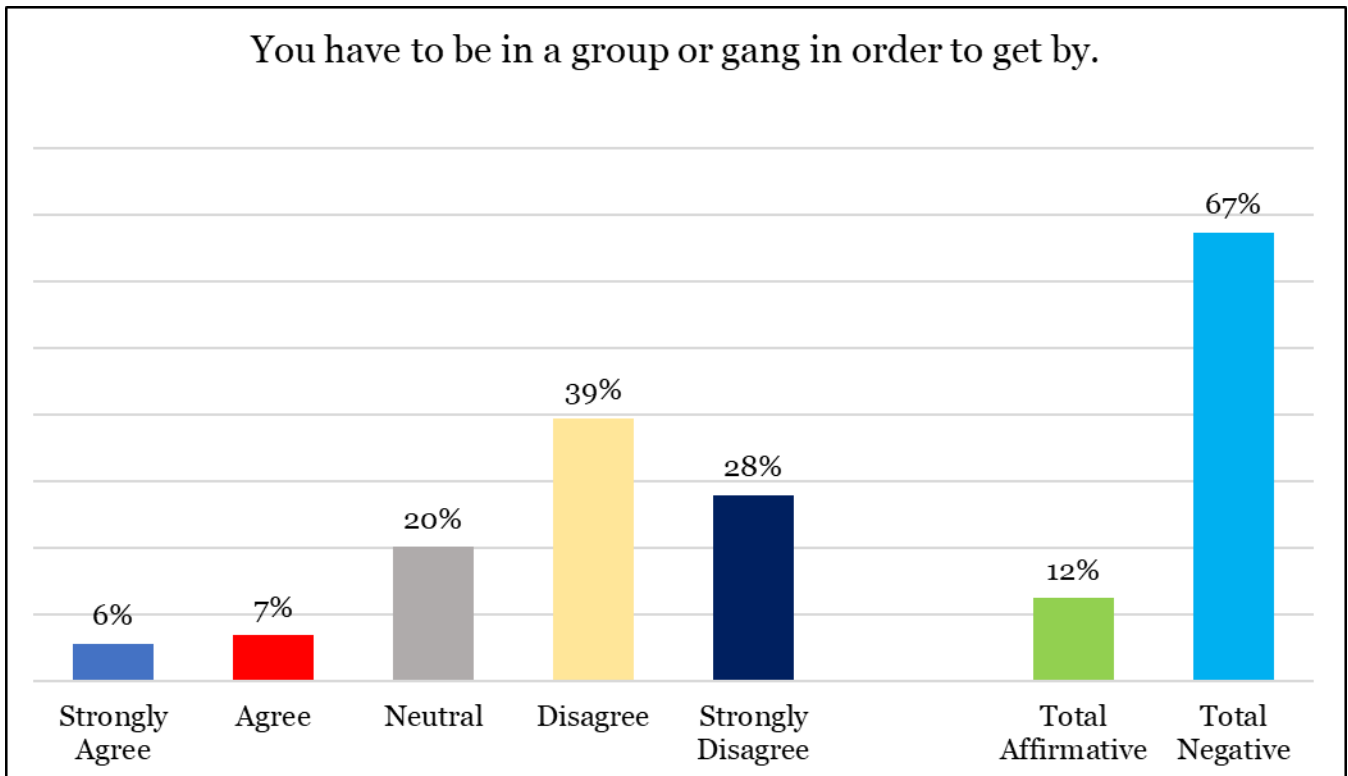
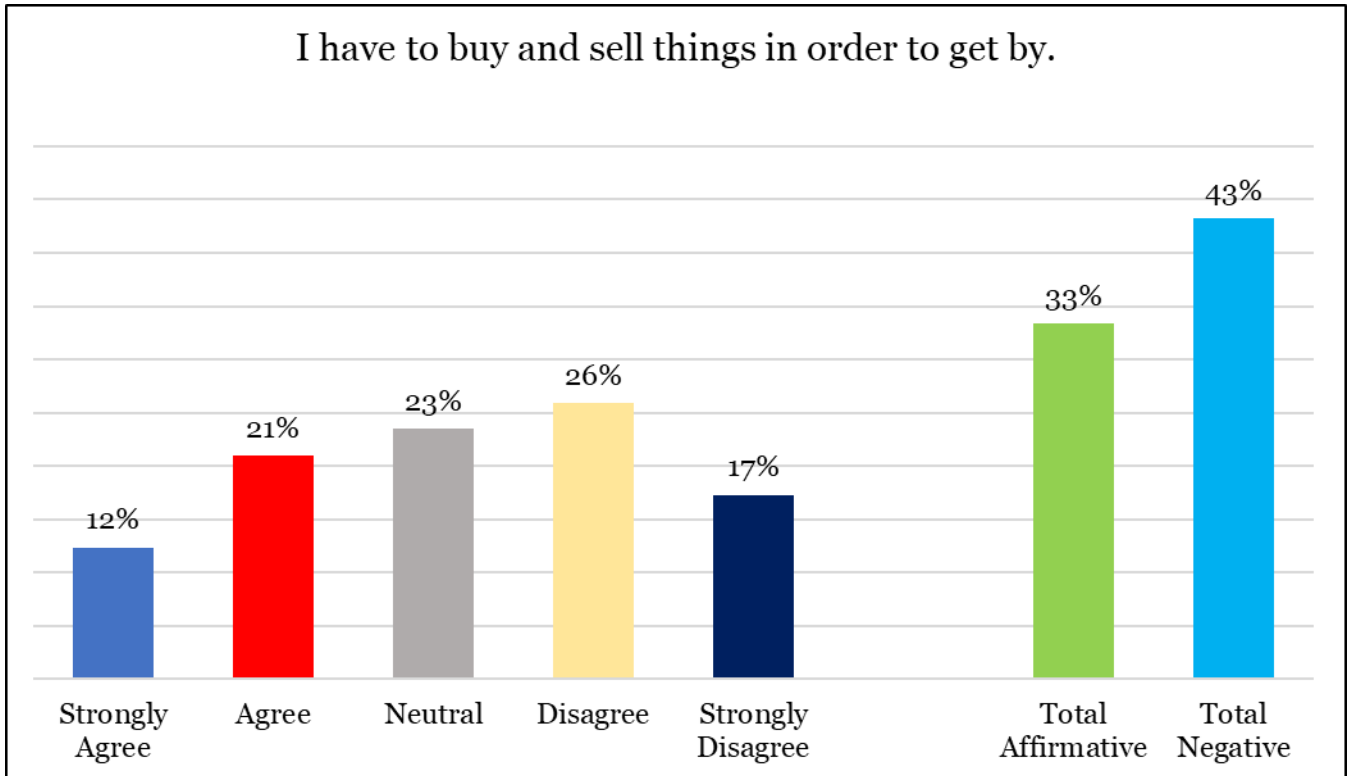
### Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.



**INCARCERATED PERSON SAFETY – THE FEELING OF SECURITY OR PROTECTION FROM HARM, THREAT OR DANGER**

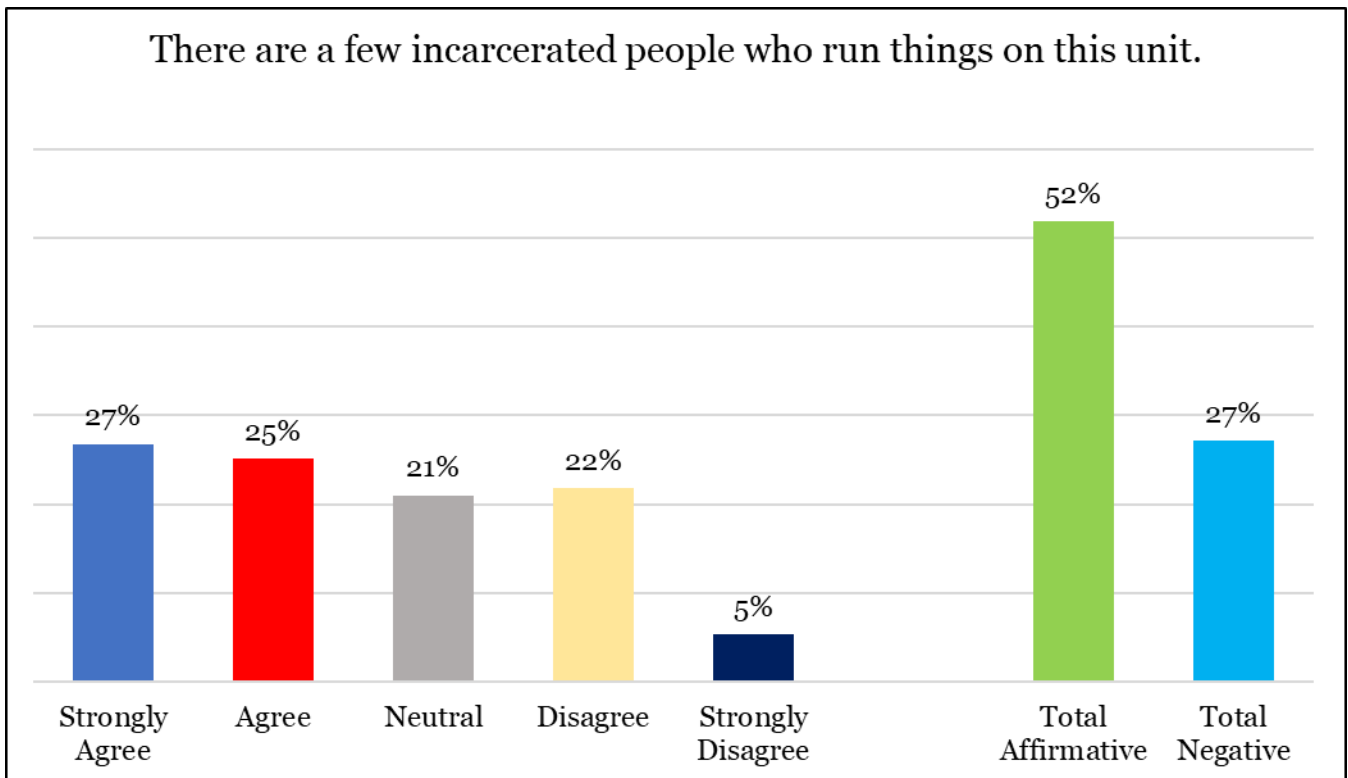
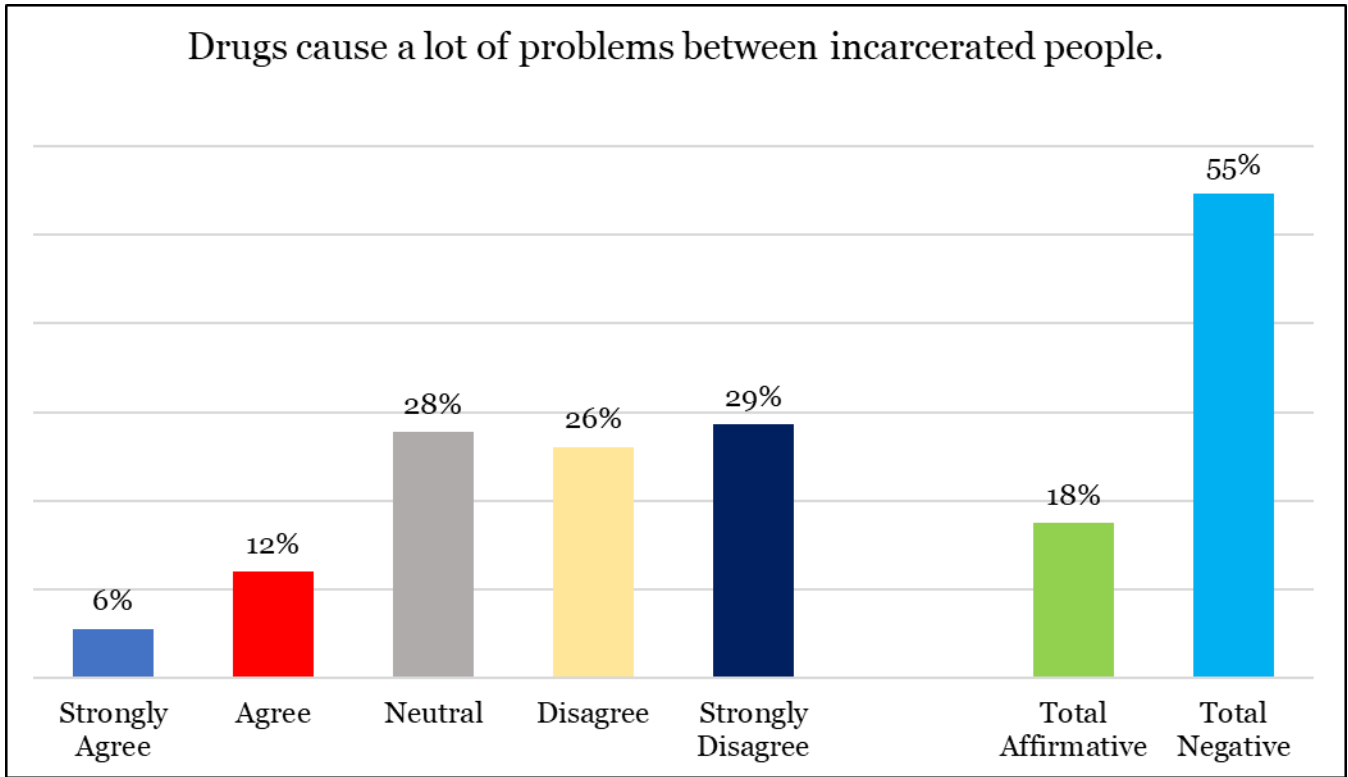


**INCARCERATED PERSON ADAPTATION – THE NEED OR PRESSURE TO GET INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ALLEGIANCES**



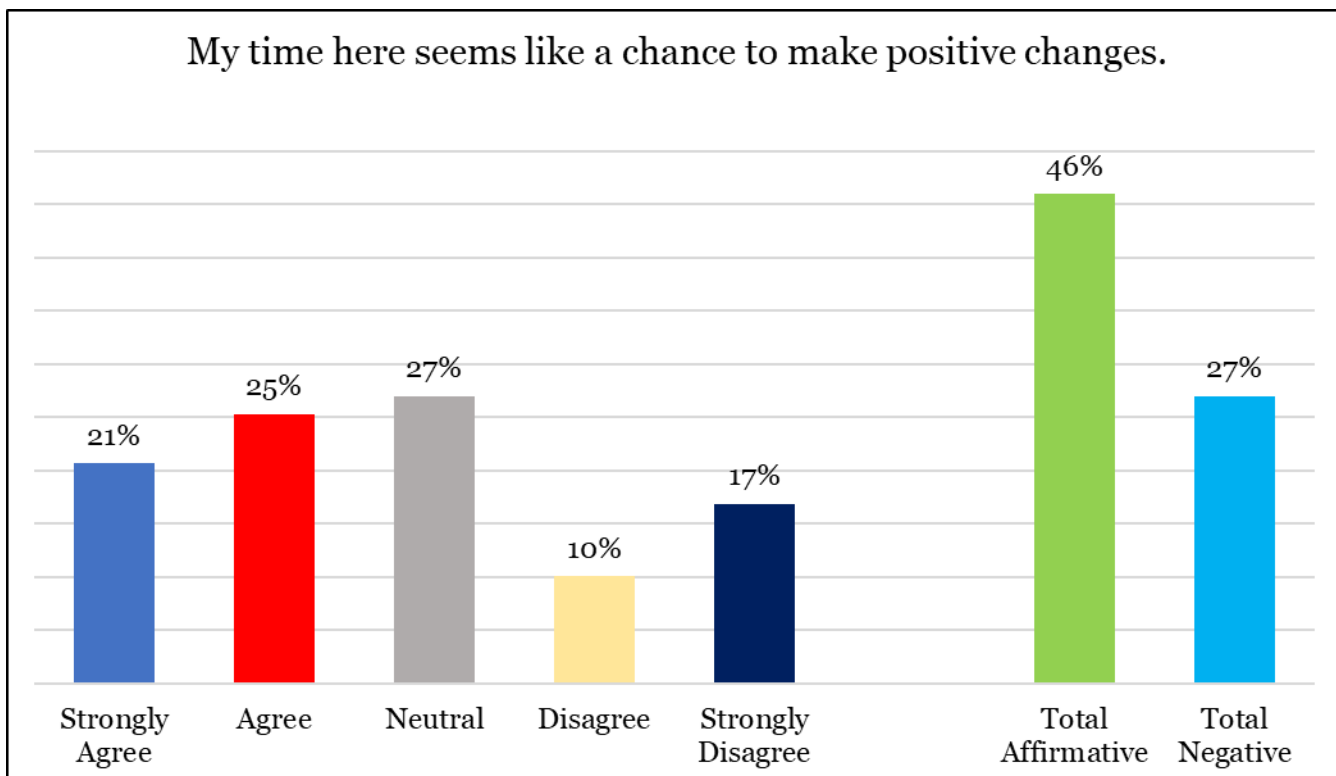
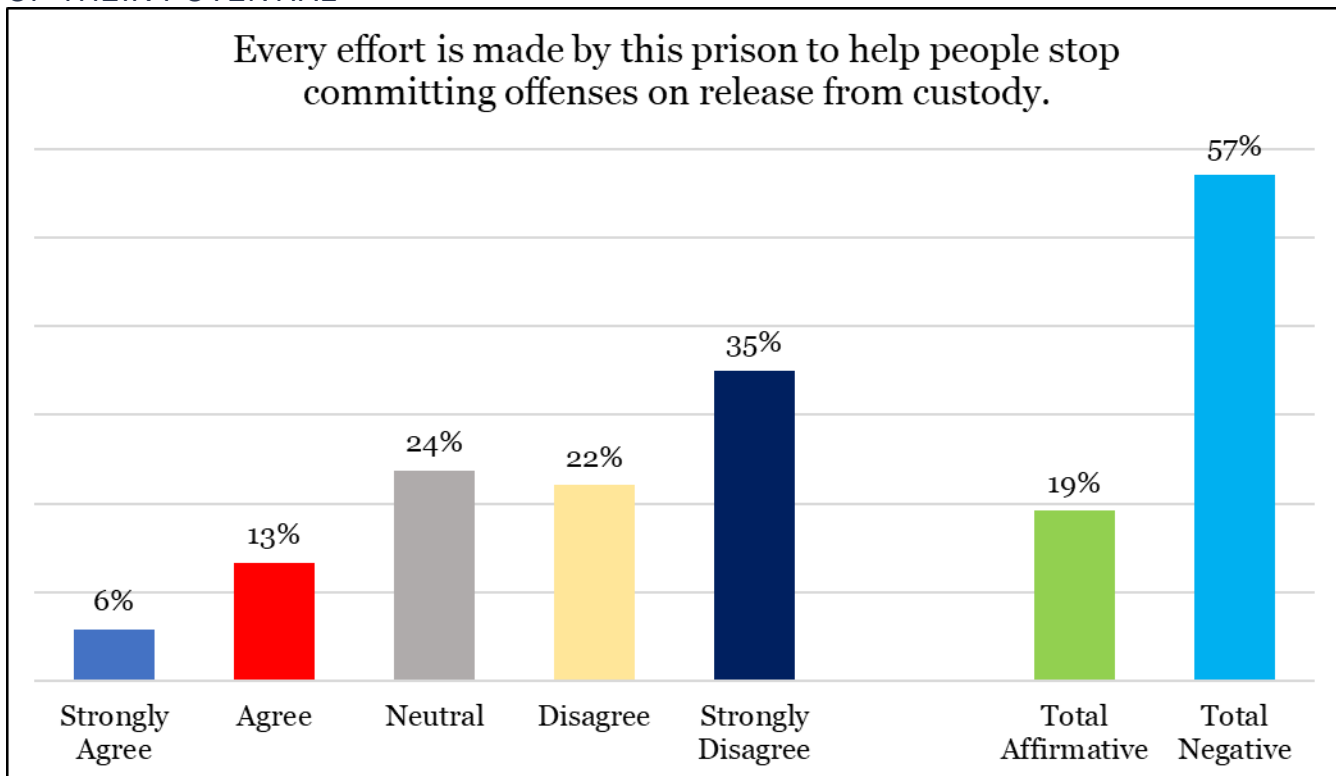


**DRUGS AND EXPLOITATION – THE LEVEL OF DRUGS, BULLYING AND VICTIMIZATION IN THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT**

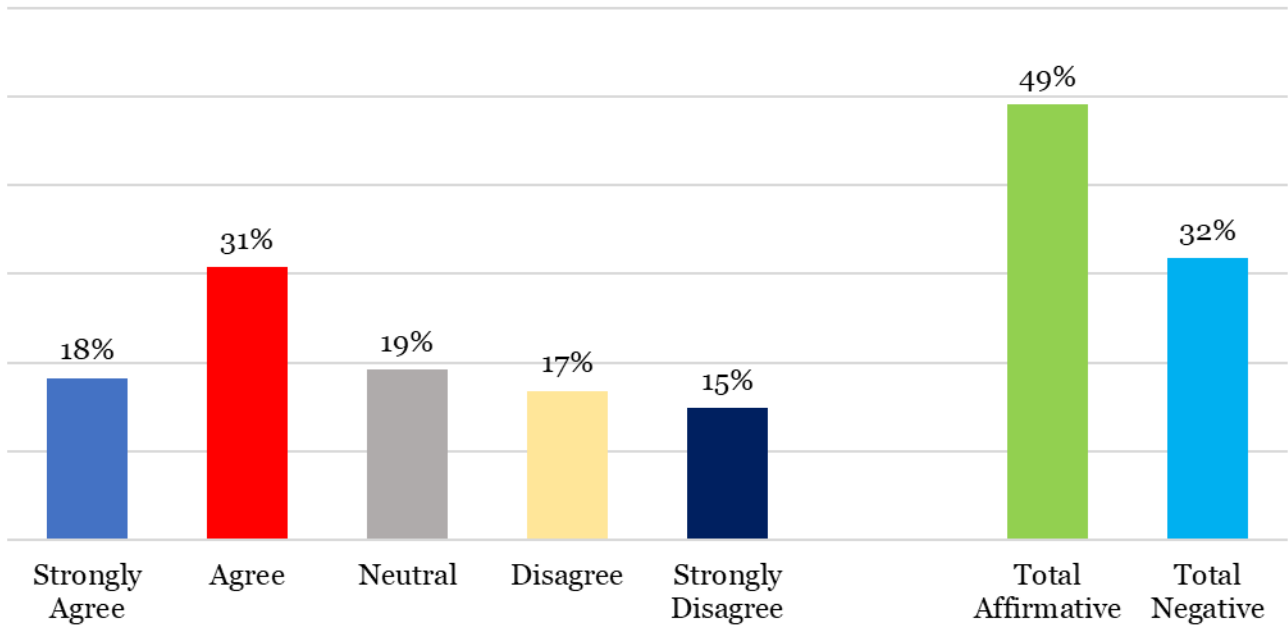


# Well-being and Development

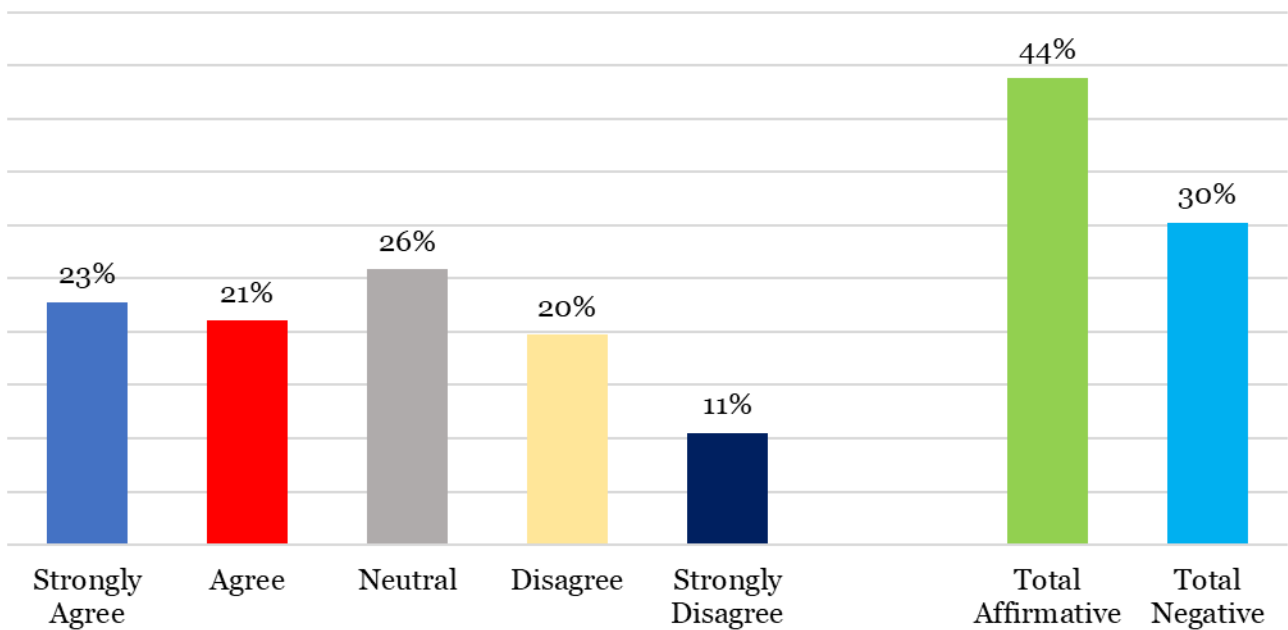
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS INCARCERATED PEOPLE WITH OFFENDING BEHAVIOR, PREPARATION FOR RELEASE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL



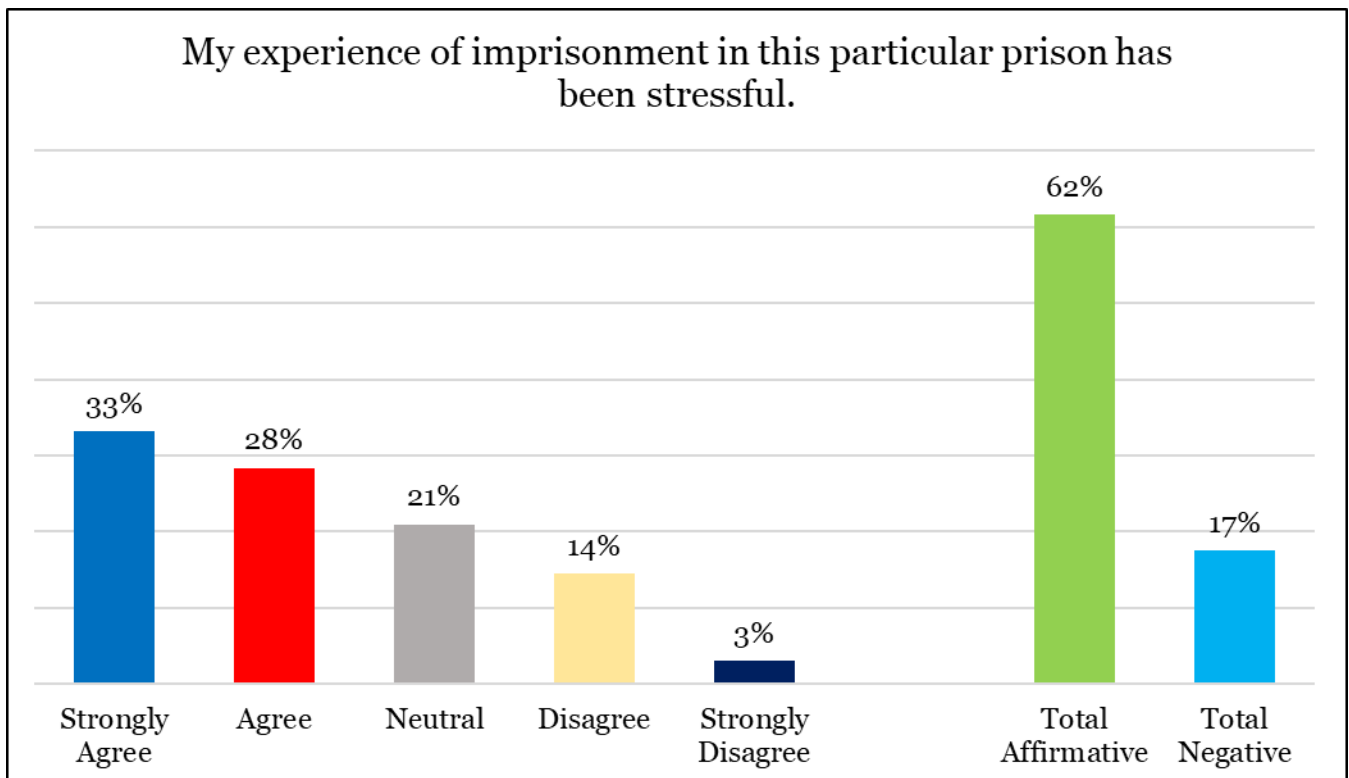
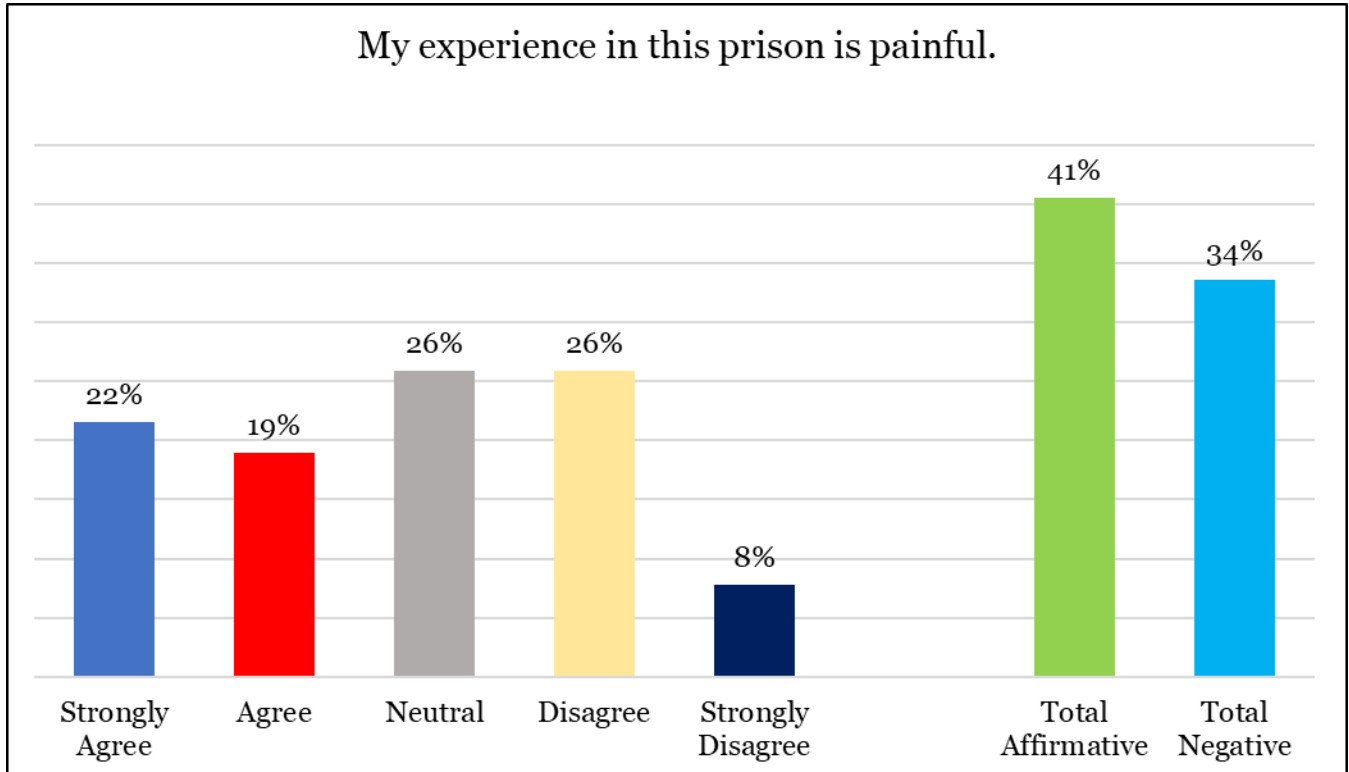
The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.



On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.

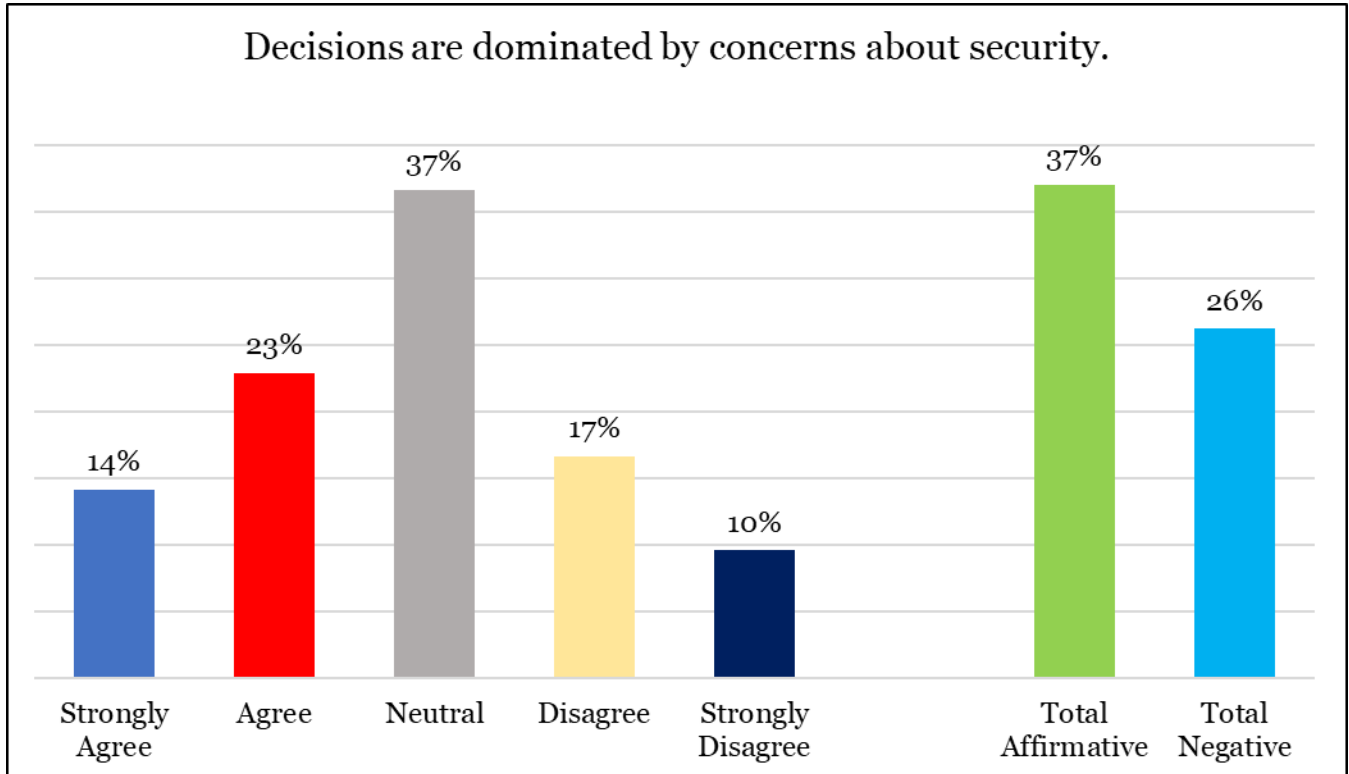


**WELL-BEING – FEELINGS OF PAIN, PUNISHMENT AND TENSION EXPERIENCED BY INCARCERATED PEOPLE**

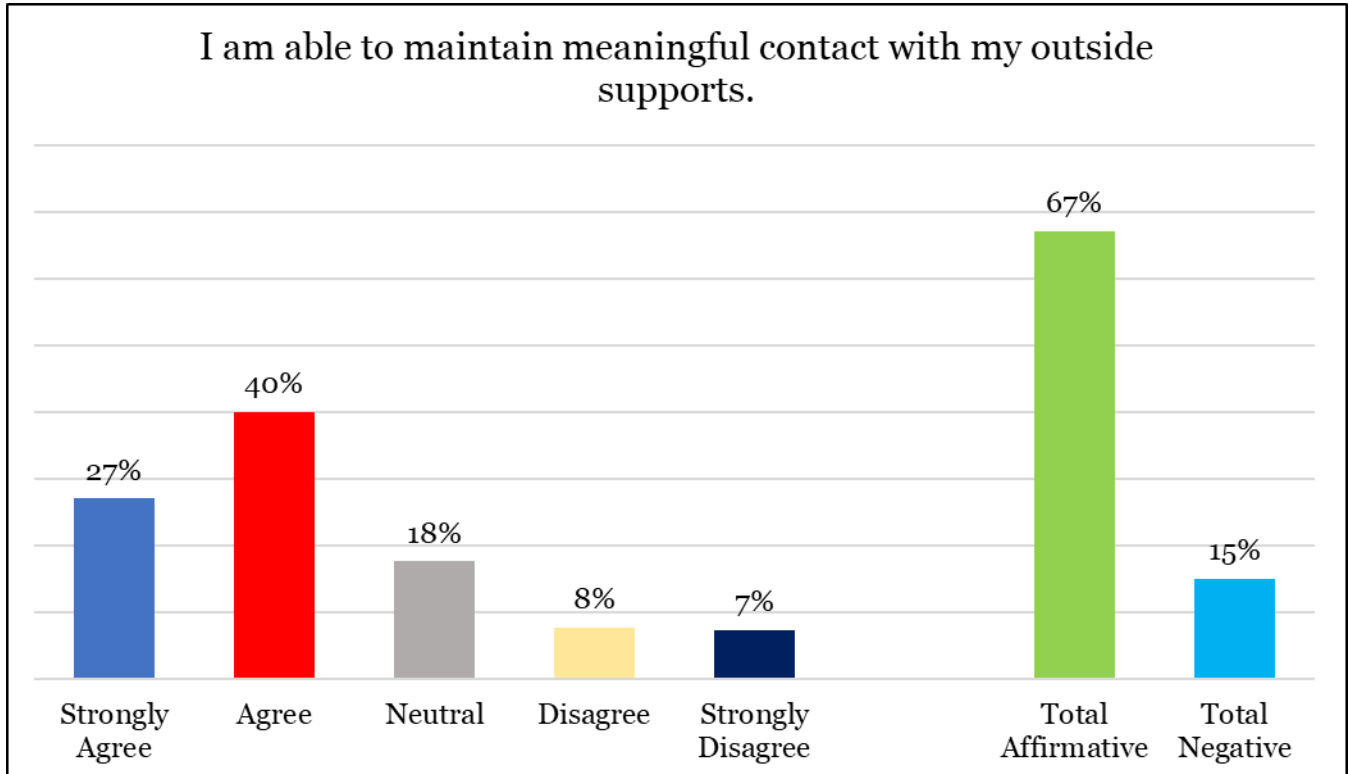


## Additional Questions

**DECISION-MAKING** – THE EXTENT TO WHICH ADMINISTRATORS PRIORITIZE SECURITY CONCERNS OVER OTHER FACTORS

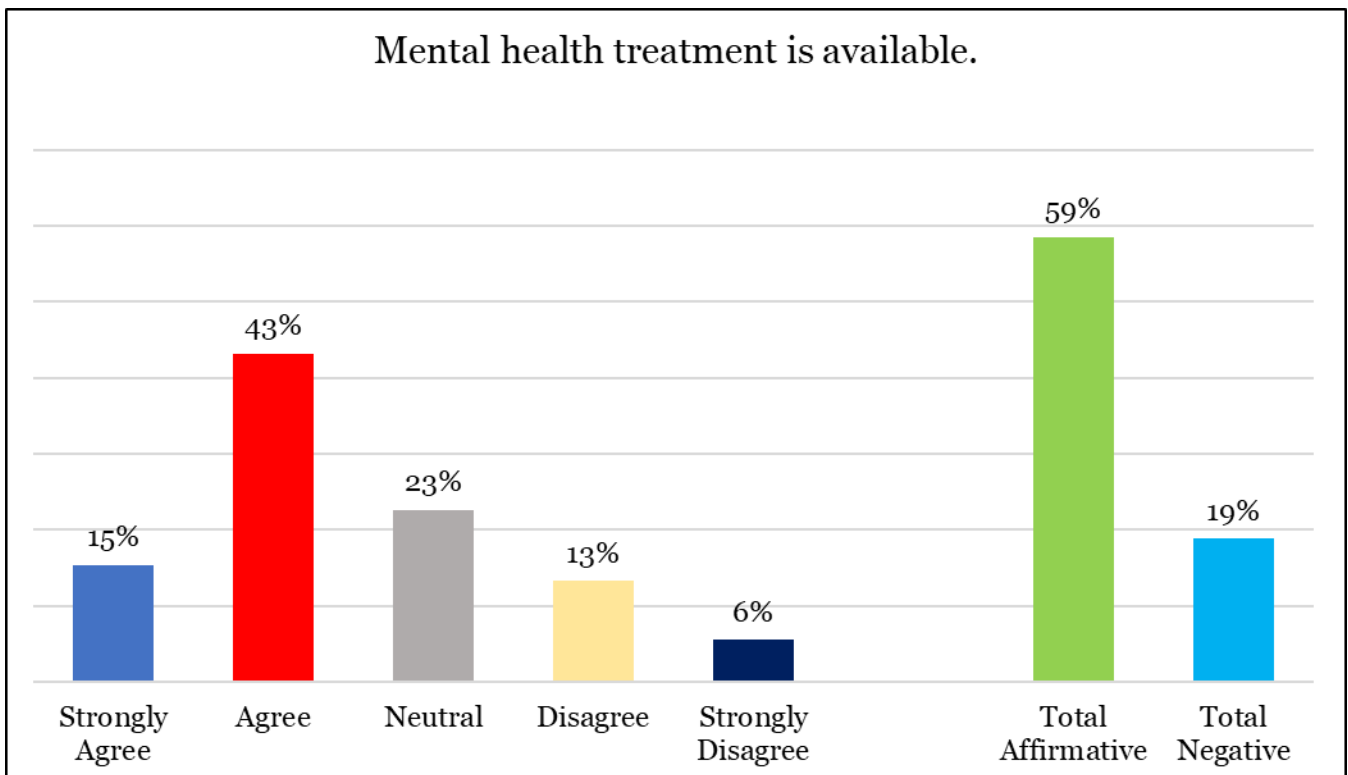
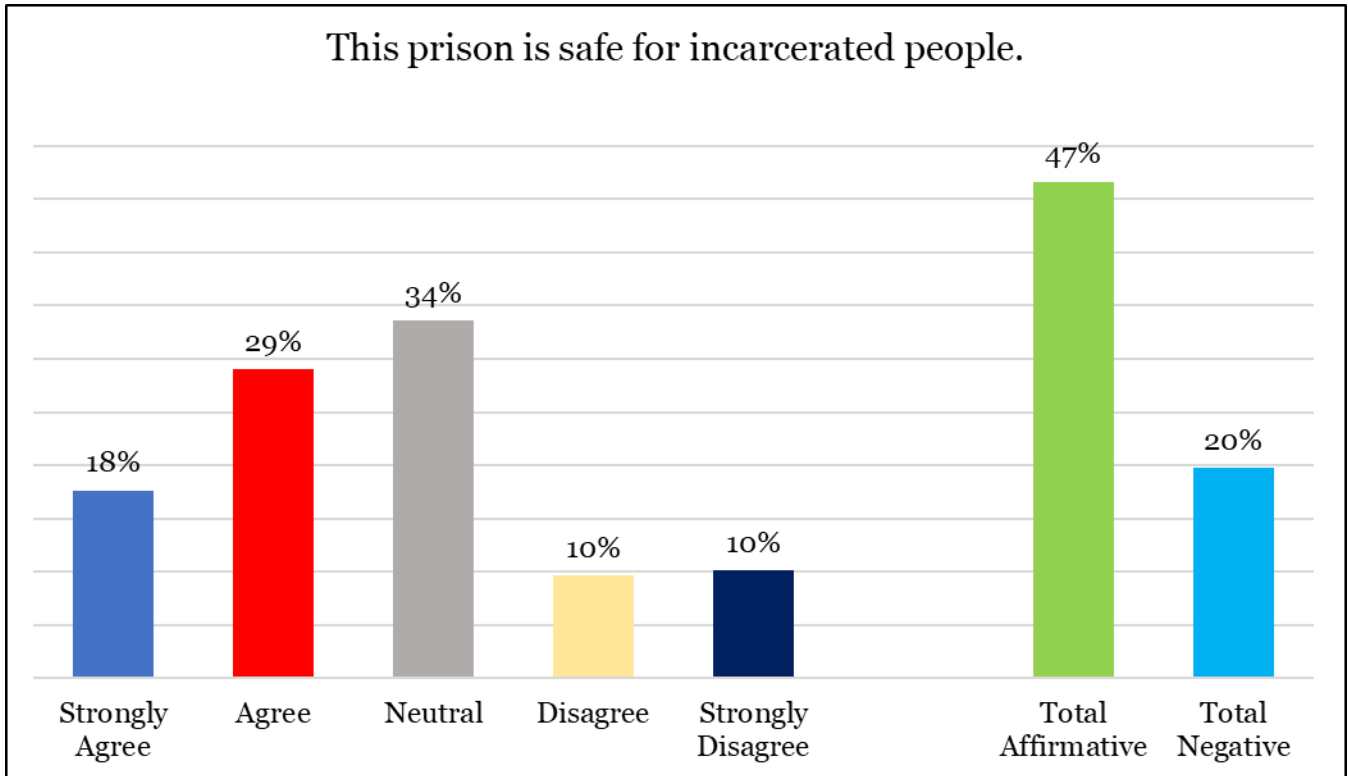


**FAMILY CONTACT – AN ENVIRONMENT THAT FACILITATES INCARCERATED PEOPLE MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVED ONES**

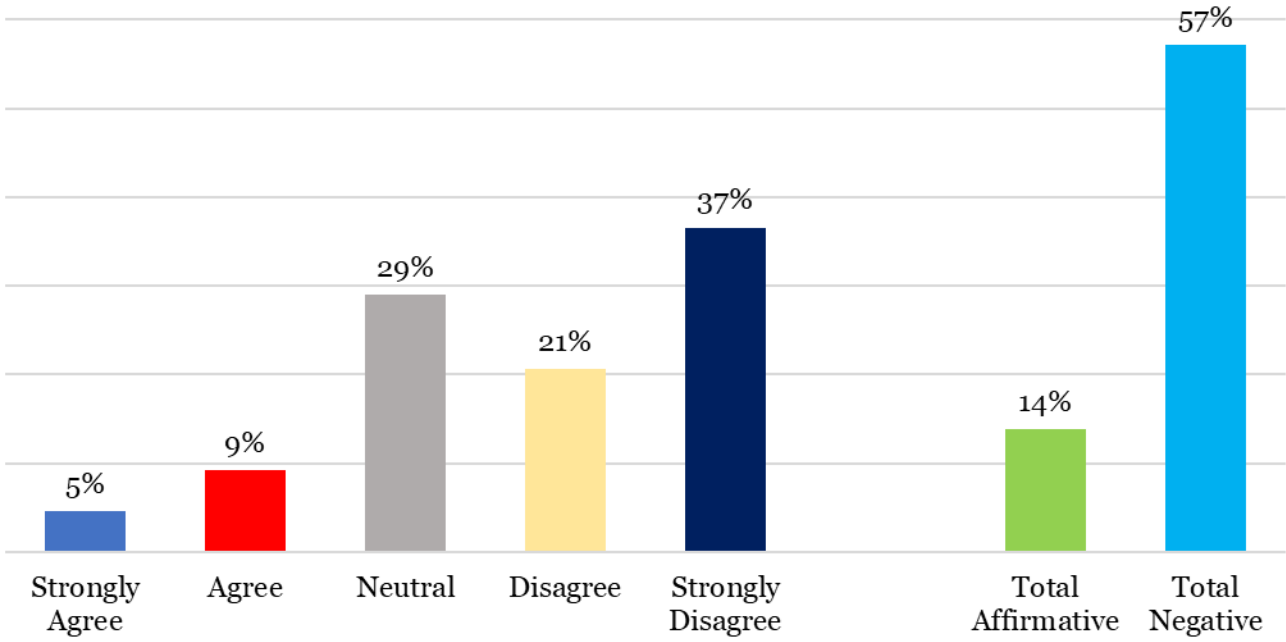


# Charts: JHA Questions

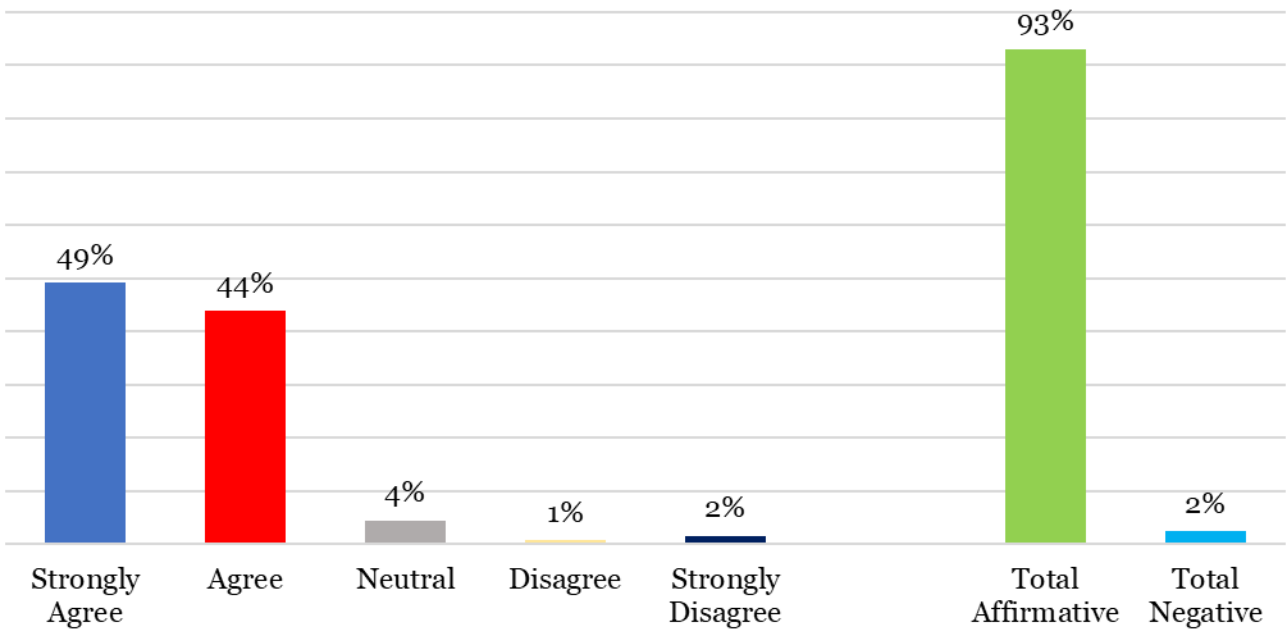
## QUESTIONS USED IN PREVIOUS JHA SURVEYS



This prison is better now than it was last year.

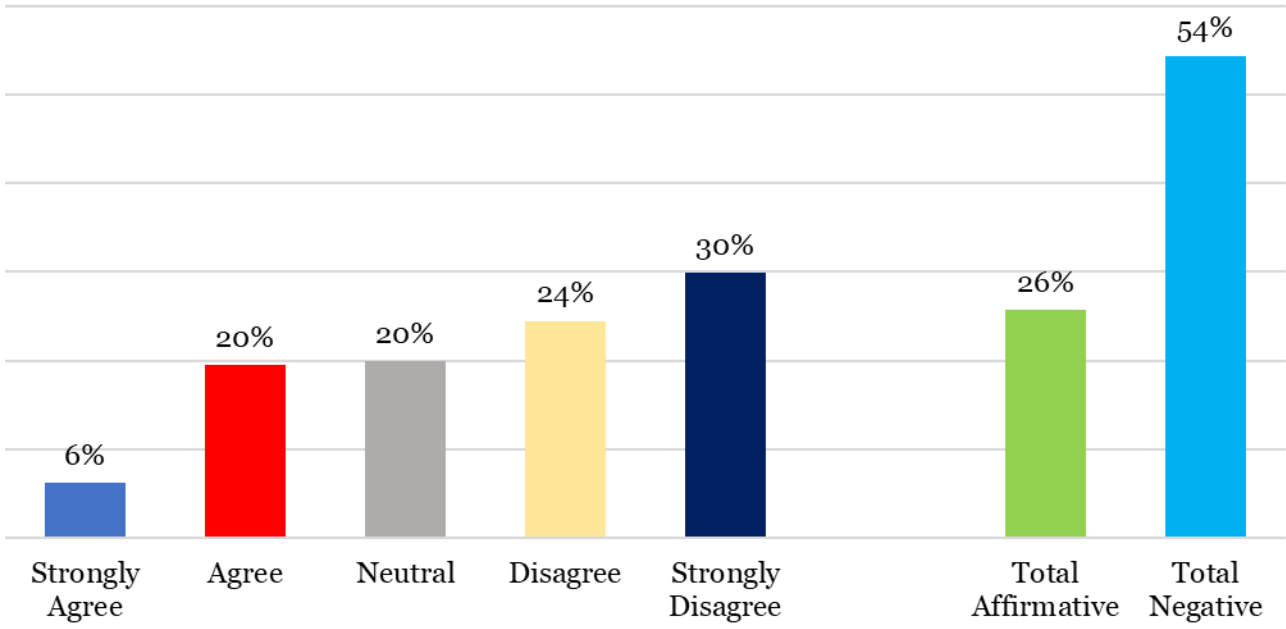


I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.

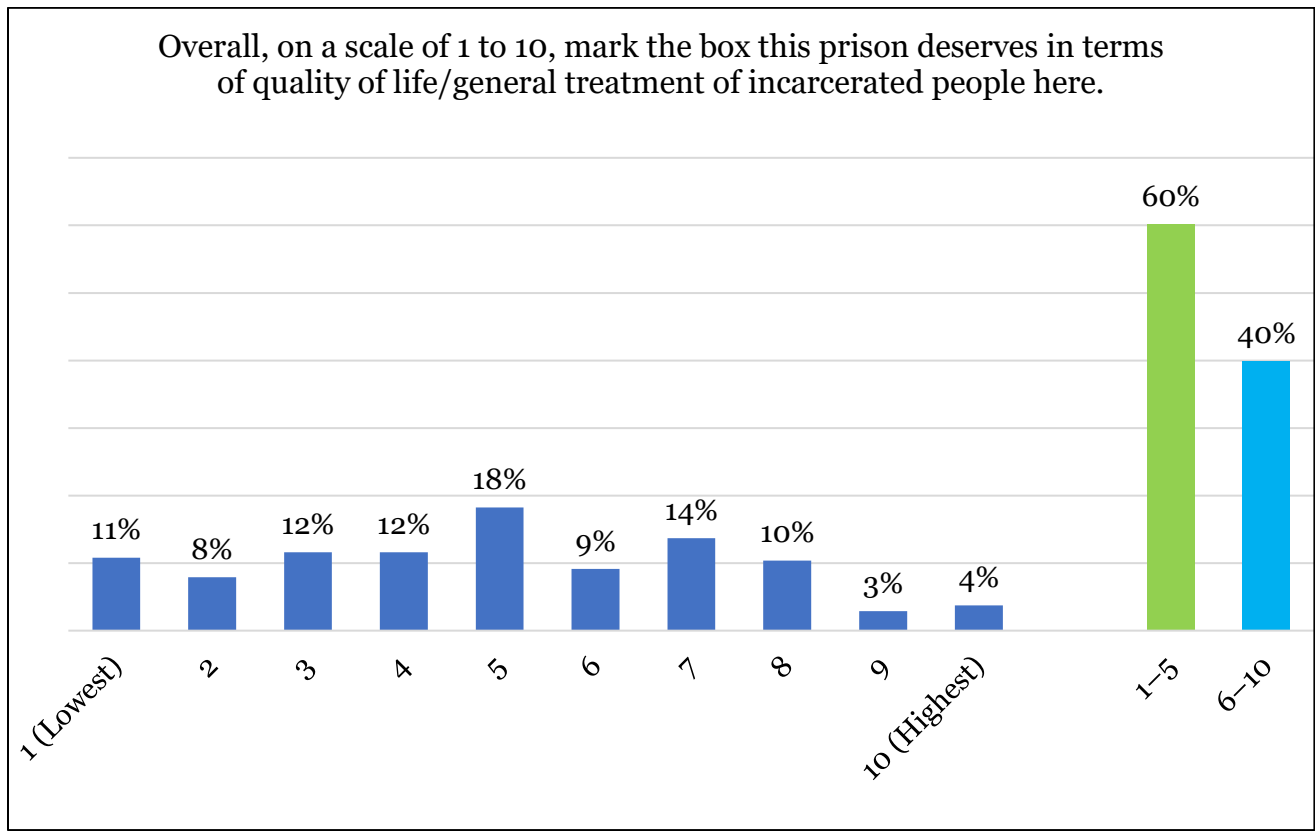




I am satisfied with food from dietary.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



# Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items

Age		
18-26	9	4%
26-30	12	5%
31-40	56	22%
41-50	73	29%
51 and over	100	40%
No response	0	

Race or ethnicity		
White	151	62%
Black	55	23%
Hispanic or Latino	23	9%
Other	14	6%
No response	7	

Are you within two years of release?		
Yes	142	57%
No	105	43%
No response	3	

Were you first incarcerated prior to age 25?		
Yes	73	30%
No	172	70%
No response	5	

What housing status are you currently on?		
General Population	238	96%
Restrictive Housing	3	1%
Other	6	2%
No response	3	

Are you currently getting at least two hours a day out of your cell or sleeping area?		
Yes	245	98%
No	5	2%

Do you have a work or school assignment?		
Work Assignment	110	46%
School Assignment	23	10%
Both	24	10%
Neither	83	35%
No response	10	

Relationships between staff and incarcerated people are good.		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	40	19%
Neutral	80	38%
Disagree	52	25%
Strongly Disagree	32	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	47	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	84	40%
No response	39	

I receive support from staff when I need it.		
Strongly Agree	8	4%
Agree	52	24%
Neutral	71	33%
Disagree	44	21%
Strongly Disagree	38	18%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	60	28%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	82	38%
No response	37	

<b>Staff here treat incarcerated people fairly when applying the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	4%
Agree	38	18%
Neutral	48	23%
Disagree	60	28%
Strongly Disagree	58	27%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	46	22%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	118	56%
No response	38	

<b>I trust the officers.</b>		
Strongly Agree	6	3%
Agree	20	10%
Neutral	59	30%
Disagree	47	24%
Strongly Disagree	64	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	26	13%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	111	57%
No response	54	

<b>I get along well with the officers on my unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	20	10%
Agree	74	36%
Neutral	74	36%
Disagree	15	7%
Strongly Disagree	22	11%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	94	46%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	37	18%
No response	45	

<b>The best way to get things done is to go through official channels.</b>		
Strongly Agree	23	11%
Agree	69	32%
Neutral	58	27%
Disagree	38	17%
Strongly Disagree	30	14%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	92	42%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	68	31%
No response	32	

<b>I have been helped significantly by a staff member with a particular problem.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	57	25%
Neutral	60	27%
Disagree	48	21%
Strongly Disagree	47	21%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	71	31%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	95	42%
No response	24	

<b>Overall, I am treated fairly by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	78	32%
Neutral	82	33%
Disagree	36	15%
Strongly Disagree	35	14%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	92	38%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	71	29%
No response	5	

<b>I am treated as a person of value.</b>		
Strongly Agree	3	1%
Agree	35	14%
Neutral	63	26%
Disagree	63	26%
Strongly Disagree	81	33%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	38	16%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	144	59%
No response	5	

<b>Some of the treatment I receive is degrading.</b>		
Strongly Agree	49	23%
Agree	97	45%
Neutral	37	17%
Disagree	31	14%
Strongly Disagree	3	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	146	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	16%
No response	33	

<b>I feel safe from being injured, bullied, or threatened by other incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	26	12%
Agree	77	36%
Neutral	54	25%
Disagree	31	14%
Strongly Disagree	27	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	103	48%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	58	27%
No response	35	

<b>If you do something wrong, staff only use punishments if they have tried other options first.</b>		
Strongly Agree	9	4%
Agree	36	16%
Neutral	74	32%
Disagree	58	25%
Strongly Disagree	52	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	45	20%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	110	48%
No response	21	

<b>To improve my situation, I have to meet impossible expectations.</b>		
Strongly Agree	29	14%
Agree	53	26%
Neutral	66	32%
Disagree	50	24%
Strongly Disagree	8	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	82	40%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	58	28%
No response	44	

<b>Staff are argumentative towards incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	48	23%
Agree	83	40%
Neutral	45	22%
Disagree	25	12%
Strongly Disagree	6	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	131	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	15%
No response	43	

<b>Staff have enough experience and expertise to deal with issues that matter to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	28	12%
Neutral	73	31%
Disagree	74	32%
Strongly Disagree	50	22%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	35	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	124	53%
No response	18	

<b>To get things done, you have to ask and ask and ask.</b>		
Strongly Agree	88	42%
Agree	78	37%
Neutral	28	13%
Disagree	13	6%
Strongly Disagree	2	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	166	79%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	15	7%
No response	41	

<b>Supervision of incarcerated people is poor.</b>		
Strongly Agree	40	19%
Agree	53	25%
Neutral	66	32%
Disagree	36	17%
Strongly Disagree	13	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	93	45%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	49	24%
No response	42	

<b>I can't improve my situation through good behavior.</b>		
Strongly Agree	60	26%
Agree	55	24%
Neutral	40	18%
Disagree	56	25%
Strongly Disagree	16	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	115	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	72	32%
No response	23	

<b>The environment encourages me to think about and plan for my release.</b>		
Strongly Agree	38	18%
Agree	64	31%
Neutral	40	19%
Disagree	35	17%
Strongly Disagree	31	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	102	49%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	66	32%
No response	42	

<b>My experience of imprisonment in this particular prison has been stressful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	76	33%
Agree	65	28%
Neutral	48	21%
Disagree	33	14%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	141	62%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	40	17%
No response	21	

<b>Positive things only happen for a certain type of people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	55	26%
Agree	79	37%
Neutral	46	22%
Disagree	26	12%
Strongly Disagree	7	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	134	63%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	33	15%
No response	37	

<b>I have to be careful about everything I do, or it can be used against me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	88	39%
Agree	82	36%
Neutral	39	17%
Disagree	16	7%
Strongly Disagree	3	1%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	170	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	19	8%
No response	22	

<b>On the whole, I am just doing time rather than using my time.</b>		
Strongly Agree	52	23%
Agree	48	21%
Neutral	59	26%
Disagree	45	20%
Strongly Disagree	24	11%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	100	44%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	30%
No response	22	

<b>Staff respond promptly to incidents and alarms.</b>		
Strongly Agree	17	8%
Agree	59	29%
Neutral	58	29%
Disagree	39	19%
Strongly Disagree	30	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	76	37%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	69	34%
No response	47	

<b>This prison is controlled by incarcerated people rather than staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	31	14%
Agree	35	15%
Neutral	48	21%
Disagree	72	31%
Strongly Disagree	43	19%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	66	29%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	115	50%
No response	21	

<b>When I need to get something done, I can normally get it done by talking to someone face to face.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	68	30%
Neutral	69	30%
Disagree	47	21%
Strongly Disagree	30	13%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	82	36%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	77	34%
No response	22	

<b>This prison is well organized.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	20	9%
Neutral	52	23%
Disagree	54	23%
Strongly Disagree	97	42%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	28	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	151	65%
No response	19	

<b>You never know the rules.</b>		
Strongly Agree	63	27%
Agree	57	24%
Neutral	52	22%
Disagree	52	22%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	120	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	62	26%
No response	16	

<b>I feel that I am treated with respect by staff.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	6%
Agree	41	18%
Neutral	63	28%
Disagree	56	25%
Strongly Disagree	52	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	54	24%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	108	48%
No response	25	

<b>My experience in this prison is painful.</b>		
Strongly Agree	50	22%
Agree	44	19%
Neutral	60	26%
Disagree	60	26%
Strongly Disagree	18	8%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	94	41%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	78	34%
No response	18	

<b>I have to buy and sell things in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	30	12%
Agree	51	21%
Neutral	57	23%
Disagree	63	26%
Strongly Disagree	42	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	81	33%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	105	43%
No response	7	

<b>There is a hierarchy among incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	58	24%
Agree	62	26%
Neutral	62	26%
Disagree	45	19%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	120	51%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	55	23%
No response	13	

<b>Decisions are dominated by concerns about security.</b>		
Strongly Agree	34	14%
Agree	55	23%
Neutral	88	37%
Disagree	40	17%
Strongly Disagree	23	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	89	37%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	63	26%
No response	1	
	0	

<b>The disciplinary system is fair.</b>		
Strongly Agree	5	2%
Agree	32	13%
Neutral	82	34%
Disagree	58	24%
Strongly Disagree	62	26%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	37	15%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	120	50%
No response	11	

<b>My time here seems like a chance to make positive changes.</b>		
Strongly Agree	49	21%
Agree	60	25%
Neutral	64	27%
Disagree	24	10%
Strongly Disagree	40	17%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	109	46%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	64	27%
No response	13	

<b>There are a few incarcerated people who run things on this unit.</b>		
Strongly Agree	65	27%
Agree	61	25%
Neutral	51	21%
Disagree	53	22%
Strongly Disagree	13	5%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	126	52%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	66	27%
No response	7	

<b>I am not being treated as a human being in here.</b>		
Strongly Agree	56	24%
Agree	55	24%
Neutral	63	27%
Disagree	49	21%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	111	48%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	59	25%
No response	17	



<b>You have to be in a group or gang in order to get by.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	6%
Agree	16	7%
Neutral	47	20%
Disagree	92	39%
Strongly Disagree	65	28%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	29	12%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	157	67%
No response	17	

<b>Bullying behavior by incarcerated people is not tolerated.</b>		
Strongly Agree	39	17%
Agree	59	26%
Neutral	55	24%
Disagree	40	17%
Strongly Disagree	38	16%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	98	42%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	78	34%
No response	19	

<b>When important decisions are made about me, I am treated as an individual and not a number.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	34	14%
Neutral	59	25%
Disagree	75	31%
Strongly Disagree	56	23%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	49	21%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	131	55%
No response	11	

<b>All they care about is my offense and security level, not the person I really am.</b>		
Strongly Agree	115	48%
Agree	65	27%
Neutral	30	13%
Disagree	25	10%
Strongly Disagree	4	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	180	75%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	29	12%
No response	11	

<b>Drugs cause a lot of problems between incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	13	6%
Agree	28	12%
Neutral	65	28%
Disagree	61	26%
Strongly Disagree	67	29%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	41	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	128	55%
No response	16	

<b>Anyone who harms themselves is considered by staff to be more of an attention seeker than someone who needs help.</b>		
Strongly Agree	49	21%
Agree	64	28%
Neutral	84	36%
Disagree	25	11%
Strongly Disagree	9	4%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	113	49%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	34	15%
No response	19	

<b>I am able to maintain meaningful contact with my outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	63	27%
Agree	93	40%
Neutral	41	18%
Disagree	18	8%
Strongly Disagree	17	7%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	156	67%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	35	15%
No response	18	

<b>This prison is poor at giving incarcerated people reasons for decisions.</b>		
Strongly Agree	84	36%
Agree	67	29%
Neutral	52	22%
Disagree	25	11%
Strongly Disagree	6	3%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	151	65%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	31	13%
No response	16	

<b>Staff help incarcerated people maintain contact with outside supports.</b>		
Strongly Agree	8	3%
Agree	35	15%
Neutral	68	28%
Disagree	68	28%
Strongly Disagree	61	25%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	43	18%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	129	54%
No response	10	

<b>This is a humane prison.</b>		
Strongly Agree	25	10%
Agree	64	27%
Neutral	77	32%
Disagree	39	16%
Strongly Disagree	35	15%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	89	37%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	74	31%
No response	10	

<b>Incarcerated people in this prison spend too long locked up in cells.</b>		
Strongly Agree	7	3%
Agree	10	4%
Neutral	49	21%
Disagree	80	35%
Strongly Disagree	84	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	17	7%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	164	71%
No response	20	

<b>This prison is safe for incarcerated people.</b>		
Strongly Agree	42	18%
Agree	69	29%
Neutral	80	34%
Disagree	23	10%
Strongly Disagree	24	10%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	111	47%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	47	20%
No response	12	

<b>Mental health treatment is available.</b>		
Strongly Agree	36	15%
Agree	101	43%
Neutral	53	23%
Disagree	31	13%
Strongly Disagree	13	6%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	137	59%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	44	19%
No response	16	

<b>This prison is better now than it was last year.</b>		
Strongly Agree	11	5%
Agree	22	9%
Neutral	69	29%
Disagree	49	21%
Strongly Disagree	87	37%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	33	14%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	136	57%
No response	12	

<b>I have the opportunity to go to yard at least twice a week.</b>		
Strongly Agree	121	49%
Agree	108	44%
Neutral	11	4%
Disagree	2	1%
Strongly Disagree	4	2%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	229	93%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	6	2%
No response	4	

<b>Every effort is made by this prison to help people stop committing offenses on release from custody.</b>		
Strongly Agree	14	6%
Agree	32	13%
Neutral	57	24%
Disagree	53	22%
Strongly Disagree	84	35%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	46	19%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	137	57%
No response	10	

<b>I am satisfied with food from dietary.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15	6%
Agree	47	20%
Neutral	48	20%
Disagree	59	24%
Strongly Disagree	72	30%
<i>Affirmative (SA/A)</i>	62	26%
<i>Negative (SD/D)</i>	131	54%
No response	9	

**Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, mark the box this prison deserves in terms of quality of life/general treatment of incarcerated people here.**

1 (Lowest)	26	11%
2	19	8%
3	28	12%
4	28	12%
5	44	18%
6	22	9%
7	33	14%
8	25	10%
9	7	3%
10 (Highest)	9	4%
<i>1-5</i>	145	60%
<i>6-10</i>	96	40%
No Response	9	
Mean Score		5.0



This report was written by JHA staff. Media inquiries should be directed to JHA's Executive Director Jennifer Vollen-Katz at (312) 291-9183 or [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org)

Incarcerated individuals can send privileged mail to report issues to the John Howard Association, P.O. Box 10042, Chicago, IL 60610-0042. JHA staff read every letter and track this information to monitor what is occurring behind prison walls and to advocate for humane policies and practices. Family and friends can contact JHA via our website [www.thejha.org](http://www.thejha.org) or by leaving us a voicemail at (312) 291-9183.

Since 1901, JHA has provided public oversight of Illinois' juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Every year, JHA staff and trained volunteers inspect prisons, jails, and detention centers throughout the state. Based on these inspections, JHA regularly issues reports that are instrumental in improving prison conditions. JHA humbly thanks everyone who graciously shared their experiences and insights with us.

